

THE

BEACH FAMILY JOURNAL

A Genealogical Newsletter Devoted to the Descendants of
RICHARD, JOHN and THOMAS BEACH, of New Haven, Connecticut,
Together with All Other BEACH or BEECH Families in America

VOLUME XI *** WINTER, 2003 *** NUMBER 4

EDITOR'S COLUMN by Eugene H. Beach, Jr.

As noted in the previous issue, 2003 has been a frustrating year as far as our genealogical efforts are concerned. For a variety of reasons we have had difficulty finding the time, energy and enthusiasm we normally devote to this publication and fear that this is reflected in its quality. Then again, it may simply be that we are our own worst critic. Despite whatever shortcomings this year's issues may have included, even we can see they have helped add significantly to the history of the family. We are especially pleased by the chance to present the final sections of Priest's account of Timothy Beach⁵ which, despite their length, should prove an interesting and valuable reference to our many readers who descend from that man.

Suffice it to say that among our New Years resolutions for 2004 will be a renewed dedication to making the *Journal* the kind of publication you and we both have come to expect, with as much variety, interest and value as possible. To help us in this effort we would invite all of our readers to submit whatever Beach-related material they feel might be suitable for publication. We are especially interested in multi-generational lineages for our "Roots and Branches" column, any Bible records or similar items of limited availability, old family letters with genealogical information, etc.

As always this issue includes a renewal form for the coming year, as well as our 2003 Index and Directory. If possible, kindly return your subscription

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renewal by January 1st, so that we can better estimate how many issues of the next issue to have printed.

With best wishes to all for the Holidays and New Year, we remain,

Respectfully, Eugene H. Beach, Jr.

GLEANINGS

A column devoted to presenting short biographies, family lineages and other accounts of persons named BEACH as found in old local histories and other sources of limited availability. If your files contain items of this type please submit a photocopy or verbatim transcript, along with the author, title, publisher, date and place of publication and page references of the source where found.

The following is taken from E.F. Hollibaugh, *Biographical history of Cloud County, Kansas* (1903) as posted to the Cloud County, Kansas, GenWeb site [Submitted by Eugene H. Beach, Jr.]:

W. B. BEACH. M. D.

Though a young man, Doctor Beach, the subject of this biography, is a very successful practitioner, and although he has been a resident of Clyde but a brief time is well known. A few months after graduation he became associated with Doctor Marcott under the firm name of Marcott & Beach, forming a strong combination of rising young M.Ds. Doctor Beach entered upon the practice of his calling with the zeal of an old practitioner. His professional standing is rapidly gaining in popular favor and his natural qualifications assure for him success and a promising career.

Doctor Beach is a native of Niagara county, New York, born in 1873. He came west in 1897, and visited his brother, who lives near Concordia, and later received a position in the hospital wards of the Ossawatomie Insane Asylum, and subsequently occupied the same position in the Clarinda, Iowa, Asylum. In 1899, he finished a course in the Kansas Medical College of Topeka, making a special study of brain and nerve diseases. His father was Sherman Beach, a New York farmer, who died in 1876. His mother before her marriage was Jane Mandaville, who lives with her son, George S. Beach, four miles northwest of Concordia. The Mandavilles were the first settlers in the state of New York.

Doctor Beach was married May 8, 1901, to Blanch I. Lay, of Seneca Falls, New York. Doctor and Mrs. Beach occupy a cozy cottage home which he purchased from A. Lavalle. It is a model of neatness, a pretty little home presided over by his accomplished wife. Doctor Beach is a member of the Topeka Medical College Alumni Society and of the Cloud county Medical Society. Politically he is a Democrat.

NOTE: This is Warren B. Beach⁸, son of Sherman M.⁷, Moses⁶, Aaron⁵, Gershom⁴, Gershom³, Thomas², John¹. While we previously knew of his ancestry, we had no information on his career, move to Kansas, marriage, etc. We wish, however, this account had named the "brother who lives near Concordia," since Warren B. Beach⁸ had three known brothers in all, i.e., Charles H.⁸, George L.⁸, and Harvey Beach⁸. The last died in New York, but whether Charles H. or George L. went to Kansas is still unclear.

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The following is taken from Standard Publishing Co., *Kansas: A Cyclopedia Of State History* (1912), Vol. III, Part 2, pp. 1163-1165 [Submitted by Eugene H. Beach, Jr.]

George T. Beach, superintendent of the Sabetha (Kansas) City Schools, and a well known educator of northeastern Kansas, was born on a farm in Pottawatomie county, Kan., July 25, 1875. He is of English descent and traces his ancestry back seven generations to Thomas Beach, the Pilgrim, who was one of the original settlers of New Haven colony under Davenport. Prof. Beach is a son of Simeon Beach, a Pottawatomie county pioneer who was born in Madison county, Ohio, on Christmas day, 1838. He was the son of Obil Beach, born in New Haven, Conn., in 1807, the son of Obil Beach, born in Goshen, Conn., in 1758, who was the son of Amos Beach, born in Wallingford, Conn., in 1724. Obil Beach, the great-grandfather of Prof. Beach, moved from Vermont to Madison county, Ohio, in 1817, and died there in 1846. His son, Obil, was ten years old when he accompanied his parents to Ohio. There he was reared and married, and when his son, Simeon, the father of Prof. Beach, was a boy, the family removed to Iowa, and from thence to Pottawatomie county, Kan., in 1858. There Simeon was reared to farm life, and on Christmas eve, 1871, he married Miss Sarah Dunn. They became the parents of seven children, six of whom grew to maturity. They are: Charles of Kansas City, Mo.; George T. of this review; Benjamin C., who died while a student at Baker University in 1898; Wright, who resides on the old homestead in Pottawatomie county; William of Plainview, Texas; and Ruth, now Mrs. Burton Retter of Wakefield, Kan. Simeon Beach, the father, was a veteran of the Civil war, in which he served two enlistments: first in the Seventh Kansas cavalry, and second in the Eleventh Kansas cavalry. He is one of the few yet living who were plainsmen of pioneer days, who hunted and killed buffalo and other wild game, and who had several skirmishes with roving bands of Indians.

Prof. Beach spent his boyhood and youth on the farm, receiving his early education in the district schools. After teaching a year in the district schools, he took a course in Campbell College at which he graduated in 1897 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. During his senior year in college, he filled the position of student-teacher, and had then fully decided on an educational career. With that end in view, he entered the Kansas State University and on the completion of his work there, he not only received the degree of Bachelor of Arts, but also the Master's degree in English and Sociology, both degrees being conferred on him in 1899, and at the same time a teacher's special diploma was granted him. He then accepted the principalship of the high school at Cottonwood Falls, Kan., in the fall of 1899, and remained there one year when he became principal of the Onaga schools for two years. In 1902 he took charge of the Saint Mary's schools and remained their superintendent until the fall of 1905, when he was chosen superintendent of the Sabetha schools, which position he still holds. During the seven years in which Prof. Beach has had charge of the Sabetha schools, they have not only advanced in efficiency, but their popularity has also increased the attendance in a like ratio, and the number of teachers required now is double the number required when Prof. Beach took charge. He has introduced a normal course and also a commercial course in the high school. Agriculture, domestic science and music are each given special attention during the high school course, and it is no exaggeration to class the Sabetha schools as second to none in the state, as to efficiency.

In 1904, Prof. Beach was united in marriage to Miss Rachel Gurtler of Onaga, Kan., and who at the time of her marriage was a teacher in the Onaga schools. She is the daughter of Wesley Gurtler, a Pottawatomie county pioneer. This union has been blessed with one child: Rex Wesley, born in 1910. Politically, Prof. Beach is a Republican, and fraternally a Mason. He and Mrs. Beach are both members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and he is president of the Sunday School Orchestra Association.

NOTE: As the foregoing account itself reveals, this is George T. Beach⁸, Simeon Downing⁷, Obil Oren⁶, Obil⁵, Amos⁴, John³, John², Thomas¹. The same year this biography was published (1912) he removed to California, finally settling in Los Angeles where he died. An

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obituary is reprinted in Alma Lewis James, *Ancestry and Posterity of Obil Beach*, p. 327, but unfortunately neither the date nor name of the newspaper are given.

The following is taken from William G. Cutler, *History of the State of Kansas*, A. T. Andreas, Chicago (1883) re: Part 5, Johnson County [Submitted by Eugene H. Beach, Jr.]:

ALBERT D. BEACH, physician and surgeon, was born in New Berne, N. Y., September 3, 1839. He began the study of medicine in 1854, serving an apprenticeship in drug business in Cincinnati, Ohio, for three years, for which he received a pharmacist's certificate, after which he followed the business as a clerk until he came to Kansas, September 3, 1858, at which time he resumed his medical studies with his brother, Dr. E. E. Beach, at Wyandotte. In the fall of 1861 he went to Cincinnati, and attended the Eclectic College for two terms. Returning to Kansas in September, 1862, he located in Olathe, and at once began the practice of medicine. For three years during the war the doctor had charge of the military hospital at this place, with the rank of acting Assistant-Surgeon, U. S. A., and during the years 1876, '77, '79, and a portion of 1881, held the office of County Physician. Dr. Beach was married in Olathe, June 19, 1863, to Frances R. Josselyn. They have one son, Leon Edgar.

GEORGE H. BEACH, hardware and implement dealer, was born in North Bend, Hamilton County, Ohio, September 3, 1847. He came to Kansas with his father, Rev. I. C. Beach, in the fall of 1857, and lived with his parents in Wyandotte City until the spring of 1858, when his father removed to Olathe, Kas., and built one of the first residences in Olathe. George lived with his father until the spring of 1864, when he went to Colorado and secured a position as clerk in a sutler store at Fort Garland, which he filled for thirteen months. Returning to Olathe, he was appointed Deputy County Clerk, filling that position for over one year; was then Deputy Postmaster for eighteen months. In 1868, he purchased one-half interest in the Olathe Mirror, and conducted it for one year, in company with Sam. E. McKee. Mr. Beach was then Assessor of Olathe City and Deputy Clerk of District Court, three years. In 1874, he purchased his present business. His stock then amounted to \$2,000, which he has increased to \$20,000. His store-room he has increased from 65 feet to 143 feet, two stories high with large ware-room adjoining. He is also interested in mining in Colorado, and own half-interest in a large stock ranch in western Kansas. He was married at Olathe, Kas., in January 1880, to Eva Hull, a native of Illinois. They have one daughter, Lora.

NOTE: These are sons of Rev. Isaac Closson Beach⁶, Abijah⁵, David⁴, David³, Nathaniel², John¹ who himself died at Olathe, Kansas, in 1873. At about the same time this account was published, George H. Beach⁷ above had a son, Albert Isaac Beach⁸, born July 30, 1883, named for both his grandfather Isaac⁶ and uncle Albert⁷. This Albert Isaac Beach⁸ later became a lawyer and was Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri, from 1924 to 1930.

The following is taken from *The Alumni Record of the University of Illinois, Including Historical Sketch and Annals of the University and Biographical Data regarding Members of the Faculty and the Boards of Trustees*, University of Illinois (1913) [Submitted by Eugene H. Beach, Jr.]:

Page 109, Class of 1881

256. BAYARD EDWARDS BEACH
(Husband of No. 277; Father of No. 3936 [sic - should be 3639])

B.L. in L. & S.; Banker; b. Nov. 30, 1860; s. Beman C. (b. 1835, New York) & Hettie (Condit) Beach (b. 1836, O.) Prepared in Champaign H.S. Adelphie, Clerk and Bookkeeper till 1883; Cashier Investment Bank, 1883-1901; Investment Banker and Pres. Dakota Savings & Loan Co., 1901 - ---- Member Congr. Church. Married Metta Macknet ('81). Children, Bayard M. ('09), b.

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Jan. 30, 1888; Daniel B., b. Mar. 10, 1892 (died Oct 10, 1892); Dorothy B., b. Feb. 17, 1893.
Address, Huron, S.D.

NOTE: He is the son of Beman Churchill Beach⁷, Edward Abbott⁶, David⁵, Edmund⁴, David³, Nathaniel², John¹. Note that the date of birth given for son Bayard M. Beach⁹ (Jan 30) is incorrect. See the entries for both his wife and son below.

Page 111, Class of 1881

277. METTA MARY IRENE MACKNET (BEACH)
(Wife of No. 256; Mother of No. 3639)

A.B.; b. Nov. 25, 1859, Girard, Ill.; d. Daniel S. (b. May 28, 1836, Newark, N.J.) & Rhoda J. (Clark) Macknet (b. July 11, 1836, Lafayette, Ind.) Prepared in Girard Pub. Sch. Aletheia. Pres; Pres. of Class; member Senate, 1879; Orat. Assoc.; Assoc. Justice Coll. Government. Member Cong. Church; Pres. Aid Soc. 1887-9, 1900-02. Married Bayard E. Beach ('81), Oct. 13, 1885, Girard, Ill. Children, Bayard Macknet ('09), b. Jan. 31, 1888; Daniel Beman, b. Mar. 10, 1892 (d. Oct 10, 1892); Dorothy Blessing, b. Feb. 17, 1893. *Address*, Huron, S.D.

NOTE: She is the wife of Bayard Edwards Beach⁸ above. Note the different date given for the birth of son Bayard M. Beach⁹ (Jan 31) compared to that given in her husband's entry (Jan 30).

Page 180, Class of 1895

851. CHARLES WORTH BEACH

B.S. in C.E.; Civil Engineer; b. Dec 5, 1868, Des Moines, Iowa; s. David & Roxana (Munhall) Beach. Prepared in Colo. Agr. Coll. Civil & Irrigation Engr. Deputy State Engineer. Author: Irrigation in Colorado, pub. by Bureau of Irrigation Investigations, U.S. Dept. Agr.; also did work on two biennial reports of State Engineer, 1905-6, 1907-8; Chief Engr., Two Buttes Irrigation & Reservoir Co. *Address*, Las Animas, Colo.

NOTE: His father was David Beach², David of Ohio¹. For more on this family - including its possible ancestry - See: *Beach Family Journal*, Vol. V, No. 3, pp. 703-710.

Page 189, Class of 1896

924. JAMES GEORGE BEACH

B.S. in Arch.; Architect; b. Jan. 4, 1875, in Apalachin, N.Y.; s. Dr. G. W. Beach. Prepared in Binghamton (N.Y.) H.S.; Lehigh Univ.; Sigma Chi; Shield & Trident; Doyle Patterson & Beach Architects, Portland, Ore. Assoc. Mem. Amer. Soc. C. E. Married Oct 25, 1909. Child: George Benson, b. Jan. 26, 1911. *Address*, 1015 Quimby St., Portland, Ore.; *Bus. Add.*, 401 Worcester Bldg., do.

NOTE: Based on strong circumstantial evidence we conclude this man is a son of Dr. George W. Beach⁷, Lorenzo⁶, Julius⁵, Laban⁴, Samuel³, John², Thomas¹, whose lineage we gave in *Beach Family Journal*, Vol. III, No. 1, pp. 249-250. One of the sources on which that account was based claims Dr. Beach graduated from Yale Medical School and was "a practicing physician at Apolaccon, Pennsylvania." We now realize, however, there is no such Pennsylvania town and that Apalachin, Tioga County, New York, is probably meant instead - the very place where James George Beach above was born. In this regard the 1880 Census for Apalachin shows a G. W. Beach, age 41, physician, with wife Elizabeth, age 38, and children Frank, age 13, George, age 5, and infant boy, age 2 months. Given his name and

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age, son George is undoubtedly this James George Beach. Note further that while this account gives the date of his marriage and name of son George Benson Beach⁹, it fails to name his wife. There seems little doubt, however, that she is the Alice Benson Beach, age 38, divorced, who appears on the 1920 Census for Portland, Oregon, with son George Benson Beach⁹, age 9, and a daughter, Esther Alice Beach⁹, age 6.

Page 373, Class of 1906

2573. HAROLD CECIL BEACH

L.L. B.; Lawyer; b. Sep, 1882, Vandalia, Ill.; s. R. E. and Harriet K. Beach. Prepared in Hanover Coll. *Address*, Vandalia, Ill.

NOTE: We find an R. E. Beach on the 1880 Census for Vandalia, Fayette County, Illinois, age 30, a physician and widower, living in a boarding house. His father is shown as born in Kentucky while his mother was born in Illinois. We suspect he is the same as the Rollin E. Beach who married Jennie Adams at Fayette County, Illinois, on Nov 11, 1873. Assuming this is the same man, however, she must have died by 1880 since not on the census, and R.E. must thereafter have married a second time.

Page 475, Class of 1909

3636. BAYARD MACKNET BEACH
(Son of No. 256 & No. 277)

B.S. in E.E.; in business; b. Jan. 31, 1888, Huron, S. Dak.; s. Bayard Edwards (b. Nov. 30, 1860, Champaign Co., Ill.) & Metta Mary Irene (Macknet) Beach (b. Nov. 25, 1859). Prepared in Huron H.S. Eta Kappa Nu; Elec. Eng. Soc.; Glee & Mandolin Club; Class Secy.; Ed. *Technograph*. Elec. Solicitor, Quincy Gas, Elec. & Heating Co., 1909-10; Insur. Dept., Beach, Bryant & Dickenson, Huron, S. Dak., and Sec. Dakota Savings & Loan Co., Huron, S. Dak., 1910 - — Member The Idlers, Huron; Huron Lodge No. 26, A.F. & A.M. *Address*, Huron, S. Dak.

NOTE: This is Bayard Macknet Beach⁹, Bayard Edwards⁸, Beman Churchill Beach⁷, Edward Abbott⁶, David⁵, Edmund⁴, David³, Nathaniel², John¹. See the entries for both his father and mother above.

The following is taken from Harvard Alumni Association, *Harvard Alumni Directory - A Catalogue of Former Students Now Living: Including Graduates and Non-Graduates and the Holders of Honorary Degrees* (1919), p. 43 [Submitted by Eugene H. Beach, Jr.]:

Beach, David Nelson [g. 94-95. *Min. Ed.*] 319 Union St., Bangor, Me.

NOTE: This is David Nelson Beach⁸, Joseph Wickliffe⁷, David J.⁶, Junia⁵, David⁴, Samuel³, Zophar², Thomas¹, b. Nov 30, 1848. He was a Congregational minister and author. See also the entry for his son, John Tappan Beach⁹, below.

Beach, Emmet Lewis, Jr. [c.11-13, A. B.; g. 13-15, A.M. 14. *Dramatist*.] 902 S. Jefferson Ave., Saginaw, Mich.

NOTE: This is Emmet Lewis Beach⁹, Emmet Lewis⁸, Noah Stewart⁷, Noah H.⁶, John⁵, Gershom⁴, Gershom³, Thomas², John¹. He was a playwright in New York. His father was a judge in Saginaw County, Michigan.

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Beach, Frank Cuyler [*l* 05-08, L.L.B.; *g* 12-13. *Ed.*] 178 S. Oxford St., Brooklyn, N.Y.

NOTE: This is Frank Cuyler Beach⁹, John Newton⁸, George Clinton⁷, Isaac⁶, Isaac⁵, William⁴, Nathan³, Thomas², John¹. For more on his family See: *Beach Family Journal*, Vol. X, No. 4, pp. 1541-1551.

Beach, Goodwin Batterson [*c* 03-07, A.B. *Fin.*] - 36 Pearl St., Hartford, Conn.

NOTE: This is Goodwin Batterson Beach⁹, Charles Coffin⁸, Joseph Watson⁷, George⁶, Ebenezer⁵, Adna⁴, John³, John², Thomas¹, b. Oct 2, 1885. His biography and photo appear in the original *Beach Family Magazine*, Vol. III, No. 2, pp. 267-268.

Beach, John Tappan [*c* 05-09 A.B. *Fin.*] 261 Park St., Montclair, N.J.

NOTE: This is John Tappan Beach⁹, son of David Nelson Beach⁸ above.

Beach, Joseph Warren [*g* 01-02, A.M.; *g* 04-07, Ph.D. *Ed.*] Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn.

NOTE: This is Dr. Joseph Warren Beach⁹, Eugene³, Elias², Ensign Eliakim¹ of New York¹, b. Jan 14, 1880. For an extensive account of this man and his family, See: *Beach Family Journal*, Vol. X, No. 4, pp. 1551-1562.

Beach, Morgan William [*l* 76-78, L.L.B.] 3715 Thomas Ave., S. Minneapolis, Minn.

NOTE: We are thus far unable to identify this man.

Beach, Reuel Williams [*c* 02-06, A.B. *Merc.*] 19 Hubbard Pk., Cambridge, Mass.

NOTE: This is Reuel Williams Beach⁸, Seth Curtis⁷, Luther Markham⁶, Archelaus⁵, Caleb⁴, Caleb³, Thomas², John¹. See also the entry for his father below.

Beach, Seth Curtis [*dv* 63-66, *Grad. Min.*] 85 Church St., Watertown, Mass.

NOTE: This is Seth Curtis Beach⁷, Luther Markham⁶, Archelaus⁵, Caleb⁴, Caleb³, Thomas², John¹, b. Aug 8, 1837. He was a minister at Watertown, Massachusetts, and authored an autobiography which was edited and published by his son Reuel⁸ above.

Beach, Sylvester Judd [*c* 97-01, A.B.; *m* 01-05, *Med.*] 283 Water St., Augusta, Me.

NOTE: We are thus far unable to identify this man.

Beach, Varnel Douglas Cole [*c* 10-13, A.B. 12 (13). *Merc.*] 710 Northwestern Bank Bldg., Portland, Ore.

NOTE: This is Varnel Douglas Cole Beach⁸, Jarvis Varnel⁷, Harvey Hunter Beach⁶, Alexander⁵, Joseph⁴, Abner³, Benjamin², John¹. For more on this man and his ancestry see the item elsewhere in this issue.

Beach, Walter Greenwood [*c* 90-91, A.B.; *g* 91-92, A.M. *Ed.*] State College, Pullman, Wash.

NOTE: We are thus far unable to identify this man.

Beach, William Griswold [*c* 07-11, A.B. *Ins.*]

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NOTE: We are thus far unable to identify this man.

Beach, William Hall [g 16-17.] Concord Wharf, Va.

NOTE: We are thus far unable to identify this man.

The following is taken from the *Newark Directory*, Newark, New Jersey (1835-36), pp. 7-8, as posted to the Distantcousin.com web site [Submitted by Eugene H. Beach, Jr.]. Note that the original punctuation is preserved. Thus, some entries insert a comma following the name, while others do not, etc. All entries take the form of name, occupation and address/location:

Beach Aaron, cashier of N. Banking and Insurance Company 264 Broad
Beach Samuel, keeper of Newark bridge foot of Bridge
Beach Daniel D. carriage maker 58 Catharine
Beach Caleb, carriage trimmer 35 Mechanic
Beach Ephraim, civil engineer River opposite Lehigh coal dock
Beach Ebenezer, shoe maker 118 Market
Beach James M. shoe maker 118 Market
Beach Stephen, shoe maker 175 Mulberry
Beach William P. sadler 361 Broad
Beach Abner, coach trimmer 3 Green
Beach Isaac, 3 Green
Beach Ephraim, coach maker 7 Franklin
Beach Abraham, coach painter 3 Green
Beach, Ann Eliza Mrs. millinery 361 Broad
Beach Widow, 4 Green
Beach Mary, widow 357 Broad

NOTE: The fact addresses are given allows us to group some of these entries together, which may eventually help establish the ancestry of these people. For example, Ebenezer and James M. Beach are both shoemakers, living at 118 Market Street, and so are likely father and son or else brothers, but we still lack sufficient information to make an identification.

William P. and Mrs. Ann Eliza Beach form still another group - either husband and wife or else mother and son - living at 361 Broad Street. Here too, however, we cannot yet make an identification.

Finally, Abner Beach, coach trimmer, Abraham Beach, coach painter, and Isaac Beach are all at 3 Green Street, while "Widow Beach" lives next door. This could be a widowed mother and her sons; possibly children or grandchildren of Abraham¹, Abner³, Benjamin², John¹, who married Phebe Kitchell in 1784.

The following is taken from A. T. Andreas, *History of the State of Kansas: Counties, Towns and Villages*, Chicago (1883) p. 1521, as posted to the Barber County, Kansas, GenWeb site [Submitted by Eugene H. Beach, Jr.]:

F. T. Beach, of the firm of Bender & Beach, dealers in hardware, lumber, etc., was born in Litchfield, County, State of Connecticut, in 1835. His parents moved to Rock County, Wisconsin, in 1846. Was one of the first settlers of that region. Was reared in the agricultural business and obtained a business education. When twenty-one years of age, he began farming for himself in Wisconsin, where he remained for seven years. He then moved to Evansville, in the same county, and engaged in the livery business, remaining two and one-half years; then farmed two years. In

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1869, he emigrated to Kansas, and settled in Linn County, where he was in the real estate business, laying out and platting what is known as Foot & Beach's First Edition to the City of La Cygne, remaining in this business for six years. He then farmed and handled stock for seven years, at the end of which time he came to Medicine Lodge, Barber County, Kansas, and opened his present business January 22, 1883. Mr. B. is a member of the order of Freemasons. In 1858, he was married to Miss Lucinda R. Davis, of Jamestown, Chautauqua County, New York, by whom he has two children - June R. and Mina A.

NOTE: We suspect this is Francis/Frances Beach, born May 18, 1835, the child of Francis A. Beach⁴, Francis Ashbury⁵, Jacob⁴, John³, John², Thomas¹. As noted in our item in Vol. XI, No. 3, p. 1683, the gender of this child has long been in doubt. The *Beach Family Magazine*, Vol. II, No. 4, p. 193, calls him "Francis", suggesting he was male, while the 1850 Census for Rock County says "Frances" and gives the sex as female. It would have been nice if the foregoing account had included this man's full name, rather than using initials. The 1880 Census for Lynn County, Kansas, likewise shows him merely as "F. T. Beach," age 45. Even so, his age, birth in Litchfield County, Connecticut, removal to Rock County, Wisconsin, etc., are all consistent with what is known about the family of his father and would seem to settle the question of his gender once and for all.

The National Park Service maintains the "Network to Freedom," a list of places related to the history of the Underground Railroad. Potential candidates for inclusion in the "Network" are posted periodically on the Park Service web site. Among such candidates as of September, 2002, was the following [Submitted by Eugene H. Beach, Jr.]:

William K. and Elizabeth Sackett Beach Homestead (Maple Hill, Kansas)

The William K. and Elizabeth Sackett Beach Homestead is the site of an Underground Railroad station known as Mission Creek station. The Beach's lived in a log cabin on the north bank of Mission Creek in section 1 of T-13, R-12. They came to the area from Appleton, Wisconsin in 1854. Mr. Beach's son (Elizabeth was his second wife), Dr. Samuel E. Beach and his wife Jane McGregor Beach also came to the Territory at that time. They staked their own claim nearby but lived with his parents. Freedom seekers were sheltered in a crude dugout on the face of a bluff south of the creek on the Beach Homestead. Corroborating evidence and local and family oral history proves the existence of a station at Mission Creek, but no written documentation has yet been discovered that tells the names of those involved. Merrill Beach, great-grandson of Elizabeth and William K. Beach lives on the property where the dugout was located. His farm is said by the Kansas Farm Bureau to be the oldest farm, occupied by the original family, in Kansas. Merrill took this preparer to a site on the bluff where his grandfather had shown him where the dugout was located.

NOTE: This is William K. Beach⁷, Lumen E.⁶, Abner⁵, Edmund⁴, John³, John², Thomas¹, b. 1798; d. Nov 21, 1872, at Chatham, Ohio; m. 1st, Henrietta Emory; m. 2nd, Elizabeth Sackett. He came with his parents to Wadsworth, Medina County, Ohio, c. 1830. As noted, he lived for a time at Appleton, Wisconsin, before settling in Kansas with his son Samuel E. Beach⁸. The latter was b. 1822; d. of fever while a Union doctor during the Civil War; m. Jane McGregor. Dr. Samuel E. Beach⁸ is said to have had two sons (names unfortunately unknown); one of whom is undoubtedly the ancestor of the Merrill Beach mentioned above. As an aside, we wonder if the name of Merrill Beach in any way honors Merrill(s) Willey, who married a distant cousin, Charlotte Beach⁷, Luman E.⁷?

ARTICLES AND NOTES

JARVIS VARNEL BEACH⁷
How An Elementary School Web Site
Added To Our Genealogical Knowledge

By Eugene H. Beach, Jr.

In the course of surfing the World Wide Web we recently came across a site for the Beach Elementary School of Portland, Oregon [For those interested, the URL is <http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools-c/pages/beach/tommy.html>]. Included is a short "School History" - obviously written by one of its students - which tells the story of Jarvis Varnel Beach, for whom the institution was named. Born in 1854, Beach is said to have practiced law in California before coming to Portland, Oregon, where he "helped the school board for 20 years." Beach is further said to have "... married Agnes Cole and got [sic] one son Varined Cole [sic]. Mr. Beach died in 1932."

Intrigued by this account we did some further research and found several other references to this man and his family. For example, the 1880 Census for Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, includes "J. V. Beach," a lawyer, age 26, single and living with V. K. Srode, another attorney. Fifty years later the 1930 Census for Portland shows Jarvis V. Beach as a lawyer, age 76, living with his wife, Agnes O., age 68. Significantly, both of these census entries show Jarvis Varnel Beach to have been born in Missouri. This immediately put us in mind of Jarvis C. Beach⁷, son of Harvey Hunter Beach⁶, Alexander⁵, Joseph⁴, Abner³, Benjamin², John¹. Notwithstanding the inconsistent middle initial, this Jarvis⁷ was likewise born circa 1854 in Knox County, Missouri.

In an effort to confirm this identity we turned our attention to the available on-line Missouri records, finding two of interest. The first is the 1860 Census of Benton Township, Knox County, Missouri, which shows:

BEACH,	EMILY E.	34	F	Farmer	Missouri
"	WILLIAM	19	M	Farmer	Missouri
"	MARY	17	F		Missouri
"	NANCY	13	F		Missouri
"	JARVIS	6	M		Missouri

These are clearly the children of Harvey Hunter Beach⁶, who died March 18, 1860, just weeks before this census was taken. Our records indicate, however, that his wife was Eleanor Isabella Henry, who had herself died circa 1856. So who, then, is Emily E. above? Did Harvey Hunter Beach remarry?

The answer, it seems, is yes, since the second record of interest is the will of this same Emily E. Beach. Dated March 2, 1867, at Millport, Knox County, Missouri, it gives her entire estate to her "step-son (or nephew) Jarvis V. Beach." Mention is also made of her brothers - all surnamed Henry - while the will itself is witnessed by Hiram Beach⁶, the brother of Harvey Hunter Beach⁶.

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From this we conclude that Harvey Hunter Beach⁶ did remarry, taking as his second wife the younger sister of his first. We further conclude that his son Jarvis V. (*not C*) Beach⁷ is indeed the Jarvis Varnel Beach for whom Beach Elementary School is named.

Further mention of Jarvis⁷ is apparently made in at least two local Portland histories, i.e., *History of the Bench and Bar of Oregon. Portland, Oregon*, Historical Publishing Co. (1910) and *Portland, Oregon Its History and Builders*, The S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., Vol. II (1911). Thus far, however, we have not yet located either volume and so do not know what additional information they may contain.

We have, however, learned more about his son, whose actual name appears to have been Varnel Douglas Cole Beach, b.c. 1890. He attended Harvard from 1910 to 1913 and is listed in the 1919 *Harvard Alumni Directory*, p. 43, with his office address given as 710 Northwestern Bank Building, Portland, Oregon. He subsequently appears on the 1920 Census for Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, as treasurer of a lumber company, age 30, with a wife Virginia, age 20, born in Texas. Ten years later the 1930 Census shows him as the manager of a lumber company, living at Sylvan, Multnomah County, Oregon, with his wife and a young son, Varnel L. Beach, age 10.

So it is that the history of an elementary school, written by one of its students, helped add a significant amount of information to the Beach family's own history. We now know the full and correct name of Jarvis Varnel Beach⁷, the names of his wife, son, daughter-in-law and grandson, and the existence of a previously unsuspected step-mother, proving once again that one never knows where, how or in what form some vital genealogical clue will manifest itself.

ROSS BEACH Of Hays, Kansas:
Businessman and Philanthropist

By Eugene H. Beach, Jr.

Enter the name "Ross Beach" in Google or any other web search engine and the results will fall into two main categories. One relates to a young musician and recording artist from Portland, Oregon, whom we may well profile in a future issue. The second and seemingly larger grouping, however, pertains to Mr. Ross Beach of Hays, Kansas - a well-known and highly respected businessman and philanthropist.

Beach was born February 22, 1918, at Abilene, Dickinson County, Kansas; the son of Roy W. and Mary (Lankow) Beach. Seventeen days later, however, his mother died from complications of his delivery. With his father already needing to care for an older brother, Roy Beach, Jr., young Ross was taken into the home of, and eventually adopted by his uncle, Ross R. Beach (for whom he was named) and aunt, Mattie (Lowe) Beach, of Lincoln, Dickinson County, Kansas. Speaking of his adoptive parents, Beach is recently quoted as saying "They were great people. I've never really thought much about being adopted because that was the way it always was. I can't remember a time when I didn't know I was adopted."

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The elder Ross Beach was a manager for the Kansas Power Company; a job which initially required frequent moves. For a few years the Beach family lived at Solomon, Kansas, where Ross, Sr. helped install the town's first power plant. In 1924, however, he was asked to take over management of United Utilities of Abilene's power plant at Hays, Ellis County, Kansas. Here the family finally settled down, allowing Ross, Jr. to attend and graduate from Hays High School. With the Great Depression at its height times were tough. "I remember I got a job at the pharmacy there... and my father didn't want me to take it because, well, there were others who needed it more than I did."

After high school Ross Beach enrolled at Kansas State University, initially planning to pursue a career in petroleum engineering. Along the way, however, he became interested in flying and was already an experienced pilot by the time he graduated in 1940. The next year he married, June 1, 1941, Marianna Kistler, formerly of Lincoln, Kansas. The couple had met while both attended Kansas State University where Marianna was pursuing a degree in industrial journalism.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Beach put his aviation talents to good use as a flight instructor for the U.S. Navy. Once the war ended, however, he returned to Hays, Kansas, and soon founded Kansas Natural Gas, Inc. Building on his success in the energy business, Beach soon branched out into other fields, acquiring several TV and radio stations, including KWCH, Channel 12 in Wichita, as well as the Douglas County Bank. His business acumen has prompted others to request his service on various corporate boards of directors, including those of the First National Bank of Kansas City, Dillon Stores, Inc., Woods Petroleum, Inc., and American Home Life Insurance Co.

Beach has also given freely of his time and resources to public service. He is a past president of the Kansas State Chamber of Commerce, as well as a past chairman of the Kansas Fish and Game Commission, Kansas 4-H Foundation, Kansas State Fair and Kansas Business Hall of Fame. In 1944 he was a delegate from Hays, Kansas, to the Republican National Convention. In addition, he was a member of the advisory boards to the business schools of the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, and Fort Hays State University; all of which have honored him with awards and citations for his service. Under the circumstances it is not surprising Beach was himself inducted into the Kansas Business Hall of Fame in 1999, was named 2001 Kansan of the year by the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas, and was honored in Congress in a speech given by Representative Jerry Moran on February 5, 2002.

A loyal alumnus, Beach made a sizable donation toward the building of the Marianna Kistler-Beach Museum of Art at Kansas State University as a "surprise" for his wife on their 50th wedding anniversary. The couple have also contributed to the Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center and Beach Hall, the building housing the Sternberg Museum of Natural History at Fort Hays State University. They likewise assisted in establishing the Beach Center on Families and Disability at the University of Kansas.

Beach's hobbies are said to include hunting and world travel, as well as a continuing love of flying. In his career he reportedly logged over 1 million miles in the air, receiving numerous citations for his flight safety record, and at one time served on the board of the National Business

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Aircraft Association. He belongs to the First Presbyterian Church, the Masons, Shrine and Rotary. He and his wife have three daughters, i.e., Mary (Mrs. Gary) McDowell of Port Townsend, Washington; Terry (Mrs. R. A.) Edwards of Hutchinson, Kansas; and Jane (Mrs. Steve) Hipp of Wichita, Kansas.

Sources

Kansas Business Hall of Fame web site, "Ross Beach, Contemporary Honors Award Recipient 1999" posted at <http://www.emporia.edu/kbhf/Contemporary/beach/beachshortbio.html>

"In Honor of Ross Beach," Speech on the Floor of the U.S. House of Representatives by Congressman Jerry Moran, Feb 5, 2002, posted to the Congressional web site at <http://www.house.gov/moranks01/speech2002/sp20502RossBeach.html>

"Husband-Wife Banking Duo Are Kansans In Truest Sense," *Lawrence[Kansas] Journal World*, Apr 3, 2002, posted at <http://www.ljworld.com/section/prog2002b/story/88565>

The *Ingrams* Kansas City Business Magazine Greater Good web site, "Marianna & Ross Beach," December, 2002, posted at http://www.ingramsonline.com/december_2002/localheroes3.html

Beach Museum of Art web site, Kansas State University, "About Ross & Marianna Beach," posted at <http://www.ksu.edu/bma/about/mkbeach.html>

Appendix: The Ancestry of Ross Beach

With all of this information about Ross Beach *per se* it was natural we should try, if possible, to determine his ancestry. We accordingly began by reviewing the 1920 Census which revealed Roy W. Beach, age 32, living in Abiline, Dickinson County, Kansas, together with his elder son, Roy Beach, Jr., age 5. Roy, Sr. must have remarried soon after Ross Beach's mother died, however, since the household also includes a Mabel(?) Beach, age 30, and a Fran(?) Gaw(?), age 12, who is identified as a step-daughter. So too, the 1920 Census for Lincoln, Dickinson County, Kansas, reveals Ross Beach himself, age 1 year, 10 months, living in the household of his uncle, Ross R. Beach, age 30, and aunt, Mattie H. Beach, age 28.

Now that we knew the approximate years of birth for both Roy W. Beach, Sr. and Ross R. Beach, Sr., we ran their names through various on-line databases. This search uncovered two LDS Family Group Records, both of which indicate that Roy W. and Ross R. Beach were sons of Lyman I. and Nora E. (Paine) Beach, originally from Porter County, Indiana. From this point on the rest proved easy, since the Lyman Beach who married Nora Paine is Lyman⁹, Willard⁸, Lyman⁷, Ezra⁶, Benjamin⁵, Joseph⁴, Benjamin³, Azariah², Richard¹. Ross Beach is thus an eleventh generation descendant of Richard Beach¹.

NOTE: For a biography and obituary of Willard Beach⁸, See: *Beach Family Journal*, Vol. IV, No. 1, p. 413. Note, in passing, how many other members of his family ultimately settled in Kansas.

John and Mary (Royce) Beach: Witnesses To Murder

By Eugene H. Beach, Jr.

Susanne "Sam" Behling runs a web site devoted to "Notable Women Ancestors" [<http://www.rootsweb.com/~nwa/index.html>], including a group aptly called "Notorious Women." Among the latter is one Mercy Tuttle, born Apr 27, 1650, the daughter of William and Elizabeth (Mathews) Tuttle of early New Haven, Connecticut. In 1667 she married Samuel Brown - one of the original subscribers for the settlement of Wallingford - by whom she had a son Samuel, Jr., born circa 1674. On June 23, 1691, however, Mercy (Tuttle) Brown inexplicably assaulted this seventeen year old son with an axe as he lay in his bed, wounding him so severely that he died six days later on June 29th. At an inquest held the following day, Samuel Brown, Sr. testified that he was awoken by the sound of heavy blows, went to his son's bedchamber, and there found his wife with the axe in her hand. He seized the weapon and threw it aside, but Mercy retrieved it, forcing him to take it from her again.

Not surprisingly, the state of Mercy (Tuttle) Brown's mental health was immediately called into question. Samuel Brown, Sr. initially testified she had seemed "As rational as ever. She had attended to her business as usual," but later noted she had not slept well lately and had recently remarked that "dreadful times are coming." Other family members and friends likewise recounted examples of Mercy's odd behavior and speech. Of particular interest is Ms. Behling's account of testimony given by "John and Mary Beach [who] swore October 6, 1691 that Mercy had come to their house for fire that morning and appeared as usual, but Rachael Beach, aged 16, heard Mr. Beach say, 'When she came out with the fire, she went down the hill towards the swamp, and he thought she was distracted.'"

We conclude this John and Mary Beach to be John², Thomas¹ and his wife, Mary (Royce) Beach of Wallingford. It cannot John Beach¹, who had died in 1677, nor his son John², John¹, who had, by this time, married Phebe (----) Birdseye and lived at Stratford. More problematic is the identity of Rachel Beach, age 16 (thus born circa 1675), since we know of no Rachel in the second or third generation of the New England family. In particular, she cannot be a daughter of John², Thomas¹ since he did not wed Mary Royce until 1678. For such reasons we suspect this is actually a garbled reference to Rachel Brown, the daughter of Mercy (Tuttle) Brown, born Aug 14, 1677. The fact Rachel refers to Beach as "Mr." rather than "uncle" or "cousin" lends support to this notion.

Despite the evidence of her insanity, Mercy (Tuttle) Brown was found guilty of murder and sentenced to death. It appears, however, she was never actually executed, since still living as of 1695. Note, in passing, that Mercy was not the only member of the early Tuttle family beset by mental and/or emotional difficulties. A brother, Benjmain Tuttle², William¹, was himself executed for murdering their sister Sarah with an axe, while another sister, Elizabeth (Tuttle) Edwards, was party to a messy divorce suit arising from the questionably paternity of her first child. For more on these fascinating events, visit Ms. Behling's "Notorious Women" page at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~nwa/notorious.html>.

NOTE: While Davis' *History of Wallingford, Connecticut*, includes data on Mercy Tuttle in both his Brown and Tuttle genealogies, he makes no mention of the events related above. Indeed, while he gives Samuel and Mercy (Tuttle) Brown a son Samuel, Jr., his claimed date of birth is well after Samuel, Jr. was killed and his mother convicted of his murder.

A Biography Of MICHAEL BEACH⁵
Revolutionary Patriot And New York Pioneer

By Eugene H. Beach, Jr.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We have long wanted to publish this biography of our great-great-grandfather, about whom no comprehensive account has ever been written previously. Given its length, however, we are concerned its inclusion might be seen as taking advantage of our position as editor/publisher by devoting too much space to our own branch of the family.¹ While a handful of our subscribers also descend from this man, the details of his life may hold little interest for the majority of our readers. Even so, we believe publication of this item justified on several grounds. First, it demonstrates the effective use of a wide variety of sources, such as church, township and military records, in addition to local histories and census schedules. Second, it illustrates how an ancestor's story can (and we suggest should) be presented in context with the history of the times in which he/she lived. Finally, since so many Beach families passed through the "Genesee Country" of western New York, our discussion of that region's early history may prove of interest and/or value.

Michael Beach⁵, the fourth son and sixth child of Linus⁴, John³, John², Thomas¹ and Dinah (Royce) Beach, was born at Goshen, Litchfield County, Connecticut, on February 3, 1756, Hibbard, *History of the Town of Goshen, Connecticut*, p. 424; *Beach Family Magazine*, Vol. I, No. 4, p. 95; Beach, *Descendants of Thomas Beach of Milford, Connecticut*, p. 15. All of these secondary references are undoubtedly based upon the original entry in *Goshen Vital Records*, Vol. I, p. 271. A second and possibly independent entry, however, is found in the records of the Pittsford Congregational Church, Monroe County, New York. In a list of members and their children, said to have been compiled in 1833, Michael Beach's date of birth is again given as February 3, 1756, See: D.A.R., *New York Cemetery, Church and Town Records*, Vol. 24, p. 175.

Youth and First Marriage

While no record has yet been found pertaining to Michael Beach's youth, it was undoubtedly spent on the parental farm, said to have been located "... on the west side of the road in the north part of town..." The family into which he was born included not only his parents, brothers and sisters, but also his paternal grandparents, Deacon John Beach³ and his wife, Mary (Royce) Beach; eleven parental aunts and uncles; and several dozen cousins.

¹ But Compare: *Beach Family Magazine*, Vol. I, No. 1, pp. 17-19, in which editor Alfred Holmes Beach⁹ devoted several pages to the story of his ancestor, Gershom Beach⁴, Gershom³, Thomas², John¹.

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What appears to be the next record pertaining to Michael Beach⁵ is also one of the most problematical. According to an entry in the *Goshen Vital Records*, as well as secondary sources based on it, Michael Beach⁵ married on August 7, 1773, at the age of seventeen. His wife's name appears in the actual record as Unice Herter, and is so abstracted in the Barbour Collection Index at the Connecticut State Library, but other sources give the spelling as Eunice Hester, *See: e.g., Hibbard, History of the Town of Goshen, Connecticut, pp. 424, 577.* There are grounds, however, for believing any such marriage did not actually take place until ten years later, as discussed at greater length below.

Service In The American Revolution

It has long been a tradition within the family that Michael Beach⁵ saw service in the American Revolution. In an 1878 biography of a grandson, Hiram Beach⁷, it is stated that "His grandfather fought in the Revolutionary War," Barnard, *American Biographical History of Eminent and Self-made Men of the State of Michigan*, Sixth Congressional District, p. 3. Likewise, in a letter from family historian George M. Beach of Chicago to the same Hiram Beach⁷, dated April 6, 1897, reference is made to:

... Michael, who was in the 4th Conn Militia at Ticonderoga and Crown Point, in the Northern Department, during the Revolution. His record is good and very interesting.

This information is consistent with that found in a number of other published and unpublished secondary sources. For example, Johnston, *Connecticut Military Records*, p. 63, lists "Micael Beach" as a member of the 6th Company of Captain Josiah Starr in the 4th Connecticut Regiment under the command of Colonel Benjamin Hinman. This same work also appears under the title *Record of Service of Connecticut Men In The War of The Revolution, War of 1812, and Mexican War*, p. 63. Similar references are likewise found in Richards, *Honor Roll of Litchfield County Revolutionary Soldiers*, p. 129; *Two Centuries of New Milford, Connecticut*, p. 50; Beach, *Revolutionary Soldiers of the Beach Family* [undated typescript in the Connecticut State Library], and the *Beach Family Magazine*, Vol. I, No. 4, p. 95.

All of the foregoing authorities appear, in turn, to be based on two contemporary, handwritten documents preserved in the Connecticut State Library, in its collections of unpublished *Connecticut Revolutionary War Records*, Vol. III. The first of these is a slip receipt - approximately one and one-half inch by six inches in size - indexed as Number 204, which reads:

Ticonderoga Nov 24th 1775

Recd of Michael Beach One Gun
Recd By Hubbard Browne Conductor of Artillery

The second document, indexed as Number 213, is a more extensive list entitled "An Account of the Guns, Bayonets & Cartochbox belonging to Josiah Starr's Company that was Left in Store as per the receipts from the Conductor." *See: Beach Family Magazine*, Vol. I, No. 2, p. 57, where these references are indexed as "Unpublished Revolutionary Records of Connecticut - Beach, Michael, gun left at Ticonderoga, 1775, III: 204, 213."

This "Account" is of interest for several reasons. First, while the receipt on which it is based correctly spells Michael Beach's name, the Account employs a more unusual spelling of "Micael Beach." Since several of the published references to Michael Beach's war service likewise use this unusual spelling, it seems clear they are based directly on this document. Second, the Account shows that "Micael Beach" received two pounds, six shillings for his gun. He apparently had no bayonet nor cartridge box. His weapon must have been a fine one, however, for the sum paid for it exceeded that given for most of the others "left in store." Even Josiah Starr, his commanding officer, received only two pounds, five shillings for his own gun. Finally, the Account reveals that Michael Beach was not the only member of his family to serve in Captain Starr's company. Also listed are two of his first cousins: William Beach⁵, son of Barnabas⁴, and Amos Beach⁵, son of Amos⁴, both likewise from Goshen.

With the aid of these two original documents, plus various secondary sources, it is possible to reconstruct - at least in part - the course of Michael Beach's military service. Thus, the 4th Connecticut Militia Regiment was raised at the first call for troops in April and May, 1775, with the majority of recruits coming from Litchfield County. Its commanding officer, Colonel Benjamin Hinman, was himself from Woodbury, while Josiah Starr, commissioned Captain of the 6th Company on May 1, 1775, was from New Milford. Of particular interest is the fact Starr's second in command, First Lieutenant Asaph Hall, was from Goshen and may have been responsible for securing troops from that locale, *See: Connecticut Military Records*, p. 63; Hibbard, *History of the Town of Goshen, Connecticut*, p. 118.

On May 10, 1775, Ethan Allen and his company of Green Mountain Boys, along with Benedict Arnold and a handful of Massachusetts militia under Major John Brown and Colonel James Easton, successfully surprised and captured the British garrison at Fort Ticonderoga, New York, at the southern end of Lake Champlain. Two days later the fort at Crown Point, a few miles to the north, was also taken. Realizing that the security of New England depended upon the ability of the colonial forces to hold these positions, Governor Trumbull of Connecticut ordered the 4th Regiment to march as soon as possible, to secure both forts against recapture. A similar request was subsequently made by the Second Continental Congress, which was then meeting in Philadelphia.

The 1000 or so Connecticut troops started off toward the end of May, reaching Ticonderoga by mid-June, 1775. Upon their arrival they joined 200 men under Arnold and the few Green Mountain Boys still remaining; Allen having gone on to Philadelphia to report to Congress on the successful operations. This left Hinman and Arnold to dispute the issue of command. Easton, who was jealous of Arnold's last minute participation in the original attack, traveled to Boston and so discredited Arnold in his report to the Massachusetts legislature that the latter sent a committee to Ticonderoga to investigate. In indignation, aggravated by a fever and news of his wife's recent death, Arnold resigned his commission and left for home, Bird, *Attack on Quebec*, pp. 19-20. This left Hinman and the Connecticut forced in undisputed control of the situation until the arrival of Major General Philip Schuyler, newly appointed by Congress as commander of the Northern Department, on July 18, 1775.

Upon assuming command Schuyler was shocked at the conditions which he found. Although the Connecticut troops had been at Ticonderoga more than a month, the fort was in a ruinous state with little, if any, effort having been made to effect repairs. Discipline was reportedly so lax that, upon his arrival, the men forming the guard which should have otherwise greeted Schuyler could not be roused from sleep, Bird, *Attack on Quebec*, p. 12. This soon changed, however, as Schuyler, together with his second in command, Brigadier General Richard Montgomery, put the troops to work while awaiting further reinforcements. A sixty-foot boat and several smaller bateaux were built, stores were stockpiled, and other preparations made for a planned invasion of Canada, Bird, *Attack on Quebec*, p. 50.

By August 23, 1775, Schuyler had gone to Albany to attend a council of the Indian tribes in an effort to secure their neutrality, if not assistance. During his absence, Montgomery received word of British troop movements which might thwart the American plans. Consequently, on August 30, the invasion flotilla left Crown Point, heading north down Lake Champlain. The force reached Ile aux Noix by September 4, 1775, when Schuyler, who had rushed back from Albany, rejoined his troops and reassumed command, Bird, *Attack on Quebec*, p. 52-57.

On September 6 the Americans made their first assault on the British outposts at St. Jean [St. John], but after encountering resistance, withdrew back to Ile aux Noix. Over the next week the rain and cold caused many of the men to fall ill, including Schuyler, who on September 16, 1775, was forced to return to Ticonderoga, leaving Montgomery once more in command. The following day Montgomery renewed the assault on St. Jean, surrounding the town, cutting off the British supplies, and firing on enemy fortifications with artillery over a period of several weeks. Thus:

... General Montgomery maintained his siege line south of St. Jean, and from it the guns fired daily in a brave and noisy show of anger. From the British counterfire there were a few casualties, which the Connecticut men accepted, pence, shilling, and pound spent for Yankee freedom.

Bird, *Attack on Quebec*, p. 100

Finally, on November 3, 1775, the British troops at St. Jean surrendered. The remaining British stronghold further north, at Chambly, had likewise fallen by this time, leaving the way open to Montreal, which was occupied on November 13, 1775, Bird, *Attack on Quebec*, pp. 141-142.

The precise role which Michael Beach⁵ played in these events is not and probably never will be known in complete detail. Two additional references do, however, provide some intriguing clues. According to the *Beach Family Magazine*, Vol. I, No. 4, p. 95, Michael Beach⁵ was "... an artilleryman at Ticonderoga and Crown Point." This statement may, in turn, have been taken from the following query printed in the *D.A.R. Magazine*, Vol. 43, p. 547, July-December, 1913, Query 3118, which reads:

Can anyone give me any information regarding Michael Beach, who was born in Conn. and was in the Rev. at battles of Ticonderoga and Crown Point. In one of those battles twelve men were killed manning the cannon, before Michael Beach took charge of it. He fired it through the rest of the battle, and escaped without injury, except loss of hearing. Wanted, names of father and mother

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of Michael Beach; dates of birth and death; date of marriage and name of wife; date of enlistment. I think that he died after the Rev. in N.Y. state, but have no proof. - M.P.

Unfortunately, the identity of M.P., together with the source of his or her information, is presently unknown. Thus, this account must be judged on its own merits. At first it is tempting to dismiss much of it as romantic family tradition, except that M.P. apparently does not know or else is unsure of his or her relationship, if any, to Michael Beach⁵. It will also be recalled that George M. Beach of Chicago likewise stated that Michael Beach⁵ served at Ticonderoga and Crown Point and that "His record is good and very interesting." This suggests that there were and, perhaps, still are additional sources which mention Michael Beach⁵ and provide more details of his service. For the moment, it seems most likely that the artillery battle referenced above was in fact the siege of St. Jean; no such actions taking place at either Ticonderoga or Crown point until much later during the war.

It is also possible, although not likely, that Michael Beach⁵ stayed with Montgomery's forces all the way to Montreal. While that city was occupied on November 13, 1775, Michael Beach⁵ was back at Ticonderoga on November 24, 1775, when he and the rest of Captain Starr's troops turned in their guns. That these men were no longer at the front may at first seem odd, but is explained by the fact that their term of enlistment was only for six months.

There is other evidence to suggest that Michael Beach saw further service in the Revolution; however, the two known references are far from clear. Records of the National Archives show that a "Michel Beach" appears on an undated "List" of "Capt. Michael Horton's Class No. 20," Van Rensselaer's New York Regiment. Card number 37297207, on which such information is given, states it was taken from an original record borrowed from the State of New York. This same record probably gives rise to a second reference in Fenrow, *New York in The Revolution*, Vol. I, p. 111, in which "Michel Beach" appears as an enlisted man in the 2nd Claverack Battalion of the 8th Regiment of the Albany County Militia, under the command of Colonel Robert Van Rensselaer. This unit was apparently formed in late 1775 and early 1776, with Van Rensselaer being commissioned its colonel on October 20, 1775, Reynolds, *Genealogical and Family History of Southern New York and The Hudson River Valley*, Vol. III, p. 1150.

How Michael Beach⁵ became associated with this New York unit is something of a mystery. There are, however, several facts which may suggest an explanation. For example, Claverack - formerly in Albany, now Columbia County, New York - is located only 30 miles west of Goshen, Connecticut, along what both then and now is a principal route between western Connecticut and the Hudson River. Assuming Michael Beach⁵ started for home from Ticonderoga in November, 1775, he would undoubtedly have passed through or near Claverack at the time the 8th Regiment was being formed. Another possibility is that Michael Beach⁵ remained at Ticonderoga after November, 1775, and became associated with the Albany County Militia during its tour of duty at that post in early 1777. Indeed, Robert Van Rensselaer was placed in command of the militia at Ticonderoga by none other than General Philip Schuyler, who was also, coincidentally, Van Rensselaer's brother-in-law, Reynolds, *Genealogical and Family History of Southern New York and The Hudson River Valley*, Vol. III, p. 1151. Further research and investigation will be

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required, however, before any firm conclusions can be drawn concerning this part of Michael Beach's military service.

Return To Goshen And First Marriage

Whatever the details and ultimate duration of his military career, the coming of Independence and peace found Michael Beach⁵ back in his native Goshen. Once returned, the records of that town reveal that he proceeded to engage in a series of curious yet fascinating legal transactions with his various brothers. By a deed dated November 6, 1781, Michael Beach⁵ gave thirty pounds in consideration for the release and quit claim of any interest of his younger brother, Linus Beach, Jr.⁵ "... to my share or part... out of the real or personal estate of my hon'd father, Linus Beach..." Less than a month later, on December 3, 1781, Michael Beach⁵ gave his older brother, Mineas Beach⁵, forty-five pounds in exchange for a similar release of his rights of inheritance. Both deeds were acknowledged by Ebenezer Norton, Justice of the Peace, and the latter deed was witnessed by Birdsey Norton, a brother of the Justice.

In the meantime it is assumed Michael Beach⁵ either lived on the parental farm or on his own lot close by. If not already married, he would soon marry Unice Herter a/k/a Eunice Hester, and by her have his first child, Shelton a/k/a Sheldon Beach⁶, born October 2, 1784. The following year, perhaps now motivated by thoughts of his growing family, Michael Beach⁵ again engaged in business dealings with his brothers. On January 28, 1785, he secured from his older brother, Oliver Beach⁵, a release of any rights the latter might have to the estate of their father, Linus Beach⁴. The instrument states that, in return, "... my brother Michael Beach of sd Goshen hath this Day bound himself and his heirs to save me and my heirs from all cost and charge for the Support of my Aged Parents during their Natural Life..." The very same day a second release was given Michael Beach⁵ by yet another brother, Medad Beach⁵, although on somewhat less generous terms. In addition to his promise to care for their parents, Michael Beach⁵ also found it necessary to pay his brother Medad⁵ the sum of thirty pounds. Both deeds were again acknowledged before Ebenezer Norton and witnessed by Birdsey Norton.

Six months later, however, the situation was reversed. By a deed dated July 6, 1785, Michael Beach⁵ released and quit claimed to Oliver Beach⁵ all his rights and interest in their father's estate; presumably including the interests Michael Beach⁵ had previously secured from Oliver⁵, Linus, Jr.⁵, Mineas⁵ and Medad⁵. In return Oliver Beach⁵ merely promised to assume all responsibility for the support "... of my hon'd parents Linus Beech & Dinah Beech of sd Goshen during their Natural Life..." This transaction seems related, however, to a deed made the same day by Linus Beach⁴ himself, by which he conveyed to Michael Beach⁵:

... one certain piece or parcell of Land Lying in sd Goshen on the North part of the farm on which I now dwell containing twenty eight acres & 100 rods of Land...

The consideration paid by Michael Beach⁵ to his father for such property is stated as one hundred and twelve pounds. It thus appears that Oliver Beach⁵ secured the right to most, if not all of his father's eventual estate, while Michael Beach⁵ obtained present title and use of a part of the parental farm.

In less than a year, however, Michael Beach⁵ saw fit or else had need to sell portions of his recent purchase. By a deed dated March 31, 1786, he conveyed to one "Reuben Castel of Woodbury in Litchfield County" 22 acres and 24 rods out of the total, in exchange for a payment of only twenty pounds. By a second deed dated the same day, he sold 6 acres and 26 rods to Josiah Benton, again for only twenty pounds. This left Michael Beach⁵ with only 50 rods or approximately one third of an acre - enough for a small home lot. Whether he in fact resided on this remaining parcel is not known. If he did, however, it was not for long. As will be discussed more fully below, his wife had or would soon die, perhaps in giving birth to a daughter, Eunice⁶, born on August 19, 1786. By the end of the year Michael Beach⁵ had remarried Eliza or Elizabeth Castle, daughter of Reuben Castle. At or about the same time he began to move from town to town in and about Litchfield County. For example, he was in Salisbury, in the northwest corner of the county, as of June 16, 1787, where the records show the birth of a son, Michael, Jr.⁵, to Michael and Elizabeth Beach, on that date, *Salisbury Vital Records*, Vol. 2, p. 19.

Michael Beach⁵ and his growing family soon moved again to his new wife's town of Woodbury, however, for by a deed dated November 24, 1787, Reuben Castle "of Woodbury" conveyed to Michael Beach "of the town... aforesaid" 3 1/2 acres of the Goshen property Michael Beach had sold to him the previous year. It appears this reconveyance was a gift by Reuben Castle to his new son-in-law since the consideration is not stated. That same day "Michael Beach of Woodbury" reconveyed the same property to Elijah Willcox, of Hancock, Berkshire, Massachusetts, for fifteen pounds. It is interesting to note, in passing, that both of these deeds are subject to "... a lease of the above described land given from the above sd Michael Beach to Linus Beach of Goshen during his natural Life."

Some four months later a similar series of transactions took place. By a deed dated March 31, 1788, Reuben Castle, in consideration of "parental affection," conveyed to "my son-in-law Michael Beach" the remaining "nineteen acres be the same more or less" of the property in Goshen. By a deed the same day Michael Beach⁵, in turn, sold this same property to Noah Tuttle, of Goshen, for a payment of thirty pounds, again subject to the use of "... my hon'd father Linus Beach during his Natural life."

Thus, as of mid-1788, Michael Beach⁵ appears to have settled most, if not all of his family and business affairs. His interest in his father's estate now belonged to his brother, Oliver Beach⁵. Any legal or moral obligation Michael Beach might otherwise have had to support his parents in their old age likewise now belonged to his brother. The land he had bought from his father was also now disposed of. Neither did he reside any longer in his native Goshen. Except for his new wife and children he was now without any of those bonds which might otherwise have held him to his home state. He was free to move on, to strike out westward, in that frontier then known as "The Genesee Country" of New York.

A Brief History of Phelps and Gorham's Purchase

One of the problems faced by the newly independent states was the resolution of conflicting claims over the western frontier. Under the vague and general language of their colonial charters, New York and Massachusetts both asserted rights in and to what is now western New York. At a

convention held in Hartford, Connecticut, in December, 1786, however, delegates from the two states reached a compromise: Massachusetts would cede all claims of sovereignty and jurisdiction over the disputed territory to New York, but would retain title and "preemption rights" to all of the land west of a so-called "preemption line." This was defined as beginning at a point on the New York - Pennsylvania border 82 miles west of the northeast corner of Pennsylvania, running then due north to Lake Ontario. All of the land to the west of this line was thus a part of New York and subject to its jurisdiction and laws, but was owned and could be sold by Massachusetts, subject to whatever title or rights were still held by the native Indians.

Realizing the value of this vast region, various speculators lost no time attempting to secure rights to it for themselves. In 1787 and 1788, a syndicate called the "New York Genesee Land Company," together with its Canadian counterpart, attempted to obtain 999 year leases from the Indians to all lands in the Genesee region. Fearful that such leases would render the preemption rights worthless, the scheme was quickly declared illegal and void by both New York and Massachusetts. In April, 1788, however, Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham proposed to the Massachusetts legislature to purchase all of that state's preemption rights for the sum of \$100,000.00 in Massachusetts currency. Because its script was heavily devalued at the time, the proposal was attractive to both sides: Massachusetts could retire the obligations represented by its notes, while Phelps and Gorham could obtain the preemption rights at a cost far below their true value. Their offer accepted, Phelps then headed west to Buffalo creek, in the heart of the Genesee country, to negotiate with the Indian representatives at a council held in July, 1788.

The Indians proved willing to sell a portion of their lands, but initially refused to consider including any territory west of the Genesee River. After several days of negotiations, however, Phelps was able to secure title to all of the region between the preemption line and river, plus the so-called "Mill Seat Tract" - a 12 mile wide strip west of and parallel to the Genesee. The price to be paid for this estimated 2,600,000 acres was a mere \$5,000.00, plus an annuity of \$500.00 per year in perpetuity.

At about this time, however, the newly constituted Federal government announced plans to guarantee the debts and obligations of the several states. As a consequence, the formerly worthless Massachusetts currency suddenly increased in value. This meant that Phelps and Gorham were unable to fulfill their original contract to purchase the entire preemption rights. They accordingly petitioned to be allowed to buy only so much land as had already been acquired from the Indians. The Massachusetts legislature agreed; later selling the residue of the original tract to Robert Morris, who in turn conveyed it to the Holland Land Company, from which it became known as "The Holland Purchase." The now reduced Phelps and Gorham's purchase was meanwhile surveyed and divided into townships. The entire region was organized as Ontario County in 1789, with the new settlement of Canandaigua named as the county seat. In short order the entire region was opened for sale to settlers from New England and Pennsylvania, on quite generous terms. Still beset by financial difficulties, however, Phelps and Gorham were soon forced to sell their remaining lands to Robert Morris in November, 1790. Morris, in turn, sold most of his interest to an English investor, Sir William Pulteney, from whom the Genesee region also came to be called the "Pulteney tract." Under the guidance of Pulteney's agent,

Charles Williamson, the availability of land was heavily promoted and the pace of settlement increased.

So-called "Genesee fever" was particularly rampant in Connecticut and many of that state's younger men, especially veterans of the war, headed west in search of better fortune. This included members of several old Goshen families. For example, Nathaniel Norton settled in East Bloomfield, New York, just west of Canandaigua, in 1789, Turner, *Pioneer History of Phelps and Gorham's Purchase*, p. 189. His brothers, Ebenezer Norton, Miles Norton and Birdsey Norton, mentioned previously, also traveled to the region in 1795. Miles and Ebeneezer Norton contracted malarial fever and died soon after returning to Goshen. Birdsey Norton stayed on, however, eventually opening a store in Canandaigua. Cyprian Collins, another member of an old Goshen family and nephew-in-law of the Norton brothers, was also an early settler in Bloomfield, New York, See: Hibbard, *History of the Town of Goshen, Connecticut*, pp. 8, 361, 445; Turner, *Pioneer History of Phelps and Gorham's Purchase*, p. 190.

Members of the Beach family likewise acted on the promise of new lands in western New York. Michael Beach's first cousin, Ashabel Beach⁵ [son of Jacob⁴, John³], settled in Bloomfield in 1790. Another first cousin, Obil Beach⁵ [son of Amos⁴, John³], "went to Genesee, about 1791," where he was later joined by his brothers, Isaac⁵, Chauncy⁵ and Amos⁵, See: Turner, *Pioneer History of Phelps and Gorham's Purchase*, p. 190; Hibbard, *History of the Town of Goshen, Connecticut*, pp. 424-425. With so many family members and old friends having already left or about to leave, it is easy to see why Michael Beach⁵ should likewise have contemplated a future in the wilds of the Genesee country.

Removal To The Genesee Region

The recently ratified federal Constitution mandated that a census be taken every ten years, with the first such enrollment made in 1790. Given that Michael Beach⁵ appears twice in the list of "Heads of Families" - once in Connecticut and again in New York - it would appear he began his westward migration in that year, so as to be present at the time the census was taken in each state.

It must be acknowledged, however, that these two census records are not wholly consistent and may possibly - although not likely - pertain to two different men. For example, the 1790 Federal Census for Litchfield County, Connecticut, gives the household of Michael Beach⁵ as containing one male over 16 years old, one male under 16 years old, and three females. Such entries would correspond to Michael Beach⁵ himself, his son Shelton⁶, wife Eliza, daughter Eunice⁶, and another female child; possibly the daughter named Anna⁶ given by at least one authority. The son Michael, Jr.⁶, born in 1787, is not reflected as he is believed to have died soon after birth.

On the other hand, the 1790 Federal Census for Claverack, Columbia County, New York, gives the household of Michael Beach⁵ as containing one male over 16 years old, four males under 16 years old, and one female. In this regard the *Beach Family Magazine*, Vol. I, No. 4, p. 95, is in error in stating "... a Michael of Cloverlock [sic], N.Y., with 1 male over 16, four under

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16 and three [sic] females." In either case, however, the number of male children and females does not correspond to the Connecticut census entries for the same year, nor is it consistent with other information concerning Michael Beach's family as of that time. When it is recalled that the service of "Michel Beach" in the Claverack battalion of the 8th Albany County Militia is likewise something of a mystery, the question naturally arises whether both of these census records pertain to the same man.

As with many genealogical problems a definitive answer may not be possible. Absent further research, any conclusions can only be based on circumstantial evidence and thus tentative at best. Assuming, however, there to have been a second, unrelated "Michel" or Michael Beach of Claverack, New York, he is otherwise unknown to any genealogy of the Beach family, local New York histories, and to the public records of that region so far reviewed. Except for the militia service record and 1790 Federal Census of New York, his name has been found nowhere else. For example, indices to the Federal Censuses of New York for 1800 and 1810 reveal only one Michael Beach/Beech - the subject of this account - residing in Ontario, later Monroe County, in the Genesee region. Likewise, the *Beach Family Magazine* and other published accounts of the family make no mention of a second Michael Beach during this period. On the contrary, the *Beach Family Magazine* clearly regards Michael Beach of Claverack as the same as Michael Beach⁵ of Goshen. Indeed, no evidence of *any* other Michael Beach has been found prior to 1787 when the first Michael, Jr.⁶ was born at Salisbury. Finally, the close proximity of Claverack to Goshen and Litchfield County would make it quite easy for Michael Beach to have been found in both localities in the same year. The censuses were not taken all at the same time and he might well have left Goshen after the enumeration there, stopping in Claverack in time to be counted again while enroute to the Genesee region.

There remain, of course, the differences in the composition of Michael Beach's household as reflected in the 1790 New York census. It is quite possible, however, that children were born and/or died in the interim, that the younger daughters were left for a time with family or friends and/or that older nephews accompanied Michael Beach⁵ to join their own families already in the Genesee. There is also the very real possibility of simple clerical errors in the enumeration and transcription of the data. Whatever the explanation, however, both census records will be assumed to refer to the same individual unless and until evidence to the contrary is found.

In his migration west Michael Beach⁵ most likely followed the Hudson River north from Claverack, proceeding west along the Mohawk River into the interior of New York state. This was the principal means of access into the Genesee region. It was, for example, the route taken by Charles Williamson, agent for the Pulteney investors, on his own first visit in 1792, and his description of the journey may be taken as typical:

February 15, 1792, Albany was left on my route to the Genesee river, but the country was thought so remote, and so little known, that the stage owner would not engage conveyance farther than Whitestown, a new settlement at the head of the Mohawk, one hundred miles from Albany. To Whitestown a passable wagon road existed, thence to the Genesee was a trail widened for the passage of a sled, and rough bridges thrown over otherwise impassable streams. Reaching Whitestown, the Albany driver became alarmed for himself and horses, when he learned that for one hundred miles forage, provisions and blankets had to be carried along, and carriage was

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changed. On from Whitestown huts were found at intervals of ten to twenty miles, but afforded only shelter from the snow, and the convenience of a fire. On the third day the east side of Seneca lake was reached, and found free from ice... Gladly the journey was concluded to Geneva, where at its log huts rest was taken. To Canandaigua the route lay upon an improved trail through land rich and heavily timbered.

McIntosh, *History of Monroe County, New York*, p. 16

In his own migration at or about the same time, Michael Beach⁵ perhaps took the same route as Williamson, and almost certainly passed through, if not actually settling for a time in Canandaigua. This conclusion is based on an otherwise obscure reference in the death record of a grandson, David P. Beach⁷, made over 150 years later. This gives David P. Beach's father as Reuben C. Beach⁶, born in "Canada." From other sources, however, it is known that Reuben C. Beach⁶, son of Michael Beach⁵, was born in New York state on September 24, 1793. Consequently, the birthplace of "Canada" may actually be a garbled reference to "Canandaigua," either on the part of the family informant or the official making the entry, *Oakland County, Michigan, Deaths*, Book 4, p. 239.

The Pioneer Settler of Braddock's Bay

Like the rest of Phelps and Gorham's purchase, the so-called Mill Seat tract, located west of the Genesee River, was surveyed and divided into townships. The most northwesterly of these, designated as Town 4 in Range 1 West, soon came to be called Braddock's Bay, after the inlet of Lake Ontario whose headwaters lay within the township's boundaries. As will be seen, this was by no means its only nor final designation. Either as part of larger political units or as the result of changes in its boundaries it was also to be called Northampton, Fairfield and finally Parma. Whatever its name, however, it was here that Michael Beach⁵ at last came and resolved to settle himself and his family.

The date of his arrival has, unfortunately, been the subject of some confusion and debate. According to one group of references, the first settlement in Braddock's Bay was made by the Atchinson brothers - Bezaleel, Stephen and John - in March of 1796. Michael Beach⁵ was then either the second or third settler, coming in 1798. Thus:

In the latter part of 1798, Michael Beach settled on lot 7, range 4.

McIntosh, *History of Monroe County, New York*, p. 173

The second pioneer family in this town is somewhat uncertain, some writers contending that the families of Michael Beach and Silas Leonard both came in 1708 [sic; should be 1798], while Gilbert Leonard is the authority for the statement that his family was here and made a permanent settlement on the 11th of April, 1797.

Peck, *Landmarks of Monroe County, New York*, p. 335

In 1708 [sic] Michael Beach settled and made an improvement on lot 7, range 4...

Peck, *Landmarks of Monroe County, New York*, p. 336

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Other authorities, while giving priority to the Atchinson brothers, simply refer to the fact of Michael Beach's settlement without mention of any specific date. Thus:

Among the other early settlers were Michael Beach, Silas Leonard, Geo. Goodhue, and Timothy Madden,...

Hough, *Gazatteer of the State of New York*, p. 394, fnote 2

See also: identical or similar statements in Doty, *History of the Genesee Country*, Vol. I, p. 632; D.A.R., *New York Cemetery, Church and Town Records*, Vol. 24, p. 219; Clark, "The Settlement and Organization of Monroe County," *Yesteryears Magazine*, Vol. 16, No. 62, Winter, 1972, p. 66.

According to both the most ancient and modern authorities, however, Michael Beach⁵ was in fact the first settler in Braddock's Bay in the summer of 1795. Writing in 1851, Orsamus Turner, in his landmark *Pioneer History of Phelps and Gorham's Purchase*, pp. 418-419, describes the Atchinson's arrival in March, 1796. In the very next paragraph he then observes that:

Michael Beach, had *the summer previous*, come in and made a small improvement, on the farm now owned by Judge Castle. [Emphasis added]

As the italicized language indicates, the "summer previous" can only refer to the summer *before* the Atchinson's arrival in March, 1796, i.e., in mid-1795. This is likewise the view of Shirley Cox Husted, long-time historian for both Monroe County and the town of Parma, New York, and author of several volumes of local history. In her *Pioneer Days of Hilton, Parma and Ogden*, p. 46, Ms. Husted writes that:

The first settler there was Michael Beach, historically Parma's most important man, since he was the first man to stake a claim in Parma. Mr. Beach made "an improvement" on Peck Road in 1795, a year before the Atchinsons came.

More recently, in the 1984 work entitled *Parma, N.Y. - The Hub of the Universe*, p. 4, Ms. Husted writes:

The first white pioneer was probably Michael Beach, who came to look over the land in 1795, staked out his claim on Peck Road, then returned to his family. His wife was pregnant. In the spring, the Beach family came west, and that year, the Atchinsons were also in residence on Hill Road...

It is thus Ms. Husted's opinion that Michael Beach's "small improvement" in 1795 was only temporary; his permanent settlement not occurring until the following year or later. In this way both Turner's 1795 date and the 1798 date of McIntosh and the other authorities are reconciled.

Regarding the claim that Michael Beach⁵ "returned to his family," this is conjecture, but does seem consistent with other facts. As noted previously, there is circumstantial evidence that the Beach family was in or near Canandaigua as early as September, 1793. As the principal settlement in the whole Genesee country and its first seat of government, it would not be surprising if Michael Beach⁵ caused his family to remain there, perhaps staying with his cousins'

families, while he explored the lesser known regions to the west in search of a more permanent homestead. It is also true, as Ms. Husted observes, that his wife was pregnant throughout most of 1795; a son, Silas⁶ being born on January 3, 1796. Finally, it is clear that Michael Beach⁵ was in Canandaigua in the fall of 1796, where he had business to transact with the Pulteney agent, Charles Williamson.

By a deed dated October 17, 1796, "Michael Beach of Ontario County..." purchased from Williamson Lot 6, Range 4 of Braddock's Bay township, containing 164 1/2 acres, described as "... in his actual possession now being..." The purchase price for such property is given as 198 pounds, 14 shillings, *Ontario County Deeds*, Vol. 4, p. 340; *Monroe County Deeds*, Vol. 1, p. 152. That same day Michael Beach's cousin, Isaac Beach⁵, along with Philip Kennedy and the Atchinson brothers, likewise received their own deeds to land in the township, Husted, *Heros In Homespun*, p. 2. Also that same day Michael Beach⁵, "farmer," gave back to Williamson a mortgage for the purchase price of his new property, due on or before October 1, 1801, with interest, *Ontario County Mortgages*, Vol. 2, p. 371; *Monroe County Mortgages*, Vol. 1, p. 32. Thus, like so many other settlers in the region, Michael Beach⁵ took full advantage of the liberal terms offered by the Pulteney agency.

Less than three months later, on December 12, 1796, Michael Beach⁵ made a second purchase of land; this time buying Lot 7, Range 4 from his cousin, Isaac Beach⁵, who had acquired it in October. This property, which joined the parcel Michael Beach⁵ already owned, contained 175 acres, 35 perches [i.e., square rods] and sold for \$800.00, *Ontario County Deeds*, Vol. 4, p. 401; *Monroe County Deeds*, Vol. 1, p. 165. Whether Isaac Beach⁵ had originally intended to actually settle on this tract or had simply acquired it as a "straw man" for his cousin is not known. Whatever the case, by the close of 1796, Michael Beach⁵ owned, was "in actual possession" of, and presumably had begun to improve nearly 340 acres of land.

His task was by no means simple. For one thing transportation of goods and supplies in and out of Braddock's Bay would remain difficult for several years. Only three "roads" existed in the township initially, each little more than a footpath. Michael Beach's two lots were located, perhaps intentionally, along the old Canawagus trail, which ran northward from the town of that name to the shore of Lake Ontario. A second trail, which ran from the Genesee River west to Niagara, was later improved as the so-called Ridge Road, named for the low rise of land which it followed. Finally, the Atchinson brothers laid out a third road which for many years bore their name, running southeast from their settlement to Fall Town on the Genesee, the present center of modern Rochester, *See: Husted, Parma, N.Y. - Hub of the Universe*, pp. 1-2.

Yet despite their deficiencies, such trails were vitally important as the only means of access to or from the more established settlements to the east. At first this meant Canandaigua and Bloomfield, but by 1798 John Tryon had build his legendary "City of Tryon" at the head of Irondequoit Bay, east of the Genesee River. Its centerpiece was a huge store and warehouse, said to have been five stories high, which was the first such establishment in the region, McIntosh, *History of Monroe County, New York*, p. 241. Even though a good day's journey or more from Braddock's Bay, it was nonetheless here that Michael Beach⁵ and the other early inhabitants of

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the area came to trade; his name being one of those frequently appearing in the store book's list of customers, D.A.R., *New York Cemetery, Church and Town Records*, Vol. 24, p. 210.

At the same time, however, the old histories show Michael Beach⁵ to have been a resourceful pioneer, growing or making what he could not afford to buy. For example, one source recalls how, in 1799, "The first apple trees were raised by Bezaleel Atchinson, and set out into orchards by himself and Michael Beach..." McIntosh, *History of Monroe County, New York*, p. 174. Another example of such efforts at pioneer self-sufficiency is provided by the reminiscences of Samuel Castle, a relative of Michael Beach's wife and himself a settler in Braddock's Bay, by then known as Parma, around 1810. He relates:

Our purchase of land when we came in was of Birdseye & Norton [sic; i.e., Birdsey Norton]; the location had upon it a small improvement that had been made by Michael Beach, a previous occupant. He had been a salt boiler; had several kettles set; ruined his salt spring by endeavoring to get stronger water.

Turner, *Pioneer History of Phelps and Gorham's Purchase*, pp. 512-513

See also: Husted, *Pioneer Days of Hilton, Parma and Ogden*, pp. 32, 46. This is confirmed by examination of the so-called "Wadsworth Map" of Braddock's Bay, dating between 1810 and 1820, which contains the symbol "S*S" in Lot 6, Range 4; Michael Beach's original purchase. Indeed, the presence of such a salt spring on the property may well have prompted his choice of location as much as its proximity to the Canawagus trail.

At the same time as he set out apple trees or boiled down the water of his salt spring, Michael Beach⁵ also worked to build the family dwelling, which soon became a focus of pioneer activity. It was presumably a "log cabin" structure since it is said by others that, as late as 1810, there were few framed houses or barns north of Ridge Road, Turner, *Pioneer History of Phelps and Gorham's Purchase*, p. 513. Whatever its style or size, however, it was at this house that two important community events took place. Thus:

Elder Hill, a Methodist minister, preached the first sermon ever delivered in the town of Parma, at the residence of Michael Beach, near Castle's, now Hunt's Corners. The exact year is not known, except that it was prior to the erection of the first school-house in 1804;...

McIntosh, *History of Monroe County, New York*, p. 176

As the same authority also relates:

Schools were also taught in one end of the dwelling-house of Michael Beach, at Hunt's Corners, which became the second district.

McIntosh, *History of Monroe County, New York*, p. 175

Still another of the old histories puts the matter somewhat more quaintly, declaring:

At Hunt's Corners Michael Beach was the first pedagogue.

Peck, *Landmarks of Monroe County, New York*, p. 350.

See also: Husted, *Pioneer Days of Hilton, Parma and Ogden*, pp. 58, 64. Undoubtedly his pupils included some, if not all of his own children, which by now numbered at least seven. Thus, the 1800 Federal Census for Ontario County, New York - which at that time included all of the Genesee region - shows the household of Michael Beach to have contained one male between 26 and 45 years old, one male between 16 and 26 years old, four males under 10 years old, one female between 26 and 46 years old, and two females between 10 and 16 years old.

A Citizen Of Old Northampton And Parma

As the pace of settlement in the Genesee country increased, so did the need for smaller, more manageable units of local government. Thus, on April 4, 1797, all of Ontario County which lay west of the Genesee river was organized into the town of Northampton. Ten years later, on December 8, 1807, Northampton was itself subdivided into four smaller towns, i.e., Pulteny, Bayard, Fairfield (which included Braddock's Bay) and Northampton. Fairfield almost immediately changed its name to Parma, by which it is known to this day.

History is blessed by the preservation of the original record book for Old Northampton which, after 1807, continued in use by the town of Parma. This leather bound volume, with its pages now yellowed by age, rests safely among the collections of the Rochester, New York, Public Library. Its contents are more widely available, however, in the partial transcription made by Professor Albert Hazen Wright, published in the *Rochester Historical Society: Publication Fund Series*, Vol. 7, and also printed separately as *Old Northampton And Northampton Records*. This important source will hereafter be cited as *Northampton-Parma Records*, with all page references to the original volume.

Such records reveal that, like his ancestors before him, Michael Beach's pioneer activities included considerable involvement in the civic life of the community. In 1800 the first state tax was to be levied in the Genesee region and, on April 1 of that year, Michael Beach, Cyrus Douglass, Eli Griffeth and Philip Beach⁵ (son of Gershom⁴, Gershom³, Thomas², John¹) were made the first assessors, *Northampton-Parma Records*, p. 14. See also: D.A.R., *New York Cemetery, Church and Town Records*, Vol. 24, p. 234; McIntosh, *History of Monroe County, New York*, p. 20. The oath of office, which each man personally signed, is contained at page 18 of the original records and reads:

I, Michael Beach, Cyrus Douglass, Eli Griffin, Jno. Palmer and Philip Beach, do solemnly and sincerely promise and swear, that I will honestly and impartially assess the several persons and Estates within the Town of Northampton in the County of Ontario, and that In making such Assessment, I will to the best of my knowledge and judgment, observe the directions of the several Laws of this State, directing and requesting such Assessments to be made.

Michael Beach

Cyrus Douglass

Eli Griffeth

Philip Beach

[Note: John Palmer did not sign]

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Even before the completion of this important civic task, however, Michael Beach⁵ and the other three men named, along with Josiah Fish, also assumed responsibility as "inspectors of the poll of the election" for a member of the U. S. House of Representatives, a New York state Senator and state Assemblyman, held between April 29 and May 2, 1800, *Northampton-Parma Records*, p. 324. A few weeks later, on May 20, 1800, Michael Beach⁵ also found time to register the "ear mark" for his cattle and swine, described in the old records as "a half crop in the end of each ear on the underside," *Northampton-Parma Records*, p. 365. Not until the fall would the tax assessment be completed; the tax roll being dated October 6, 1800, Turner, *History of the Holland Purchase*, p. 390.

Two years later, on March 2, 1802, Michael Beach⁵ was voted fence viewer and pound keeper, responsible for seeing that livestock did not roam free and taking into custody any which did, *Northampton-Parma Records*, p. 49. On March 6, 1804, he was retained in those offices and, in addition, was made an overseer of highways, responsible for keeping the roads in his district in good repair. For such services he was paid the sum of \$16.62, according to an account dated September, 1804, *Northampton-Parma Records*, pp. 70, 74. His duties as pound keeper are illustrated by the following notice, contained in the old record book, dated April 11, 1805:

Taken up by the subscribed a Two year old Mare Colt dark Brown Black mane and tale White Star
in the forehead a snip on the nose Trots and paces the mane cut off the owner is desired to prove
property pay Charges and take her away Immediately.

Michael Beach

Such good service undoubtedly accounted for his being voted fence viewer and pound keeper a third time on April 1, 1806, *Northampton-Parma Records*, p. 86. His role as overseer of highways may likewise explain the frequent mention of his property as a boundary between road districts 10 and 12 in 1807 and 1808, and between districts 9 and 10 in 1809, *Northampton-Parma Records*, pp. 107, 119, 142.

Relocation To Boyle

Despite his long and varied service to Old Northampton and Parma, financial circumstances appear to have cut short Michael Beach's stay in that community. His mortgage to Charles Williamson had come due on October 1, 1801, and apparently went unpaid, for on October 9, 1803, he was forced to deed both Lots 6 and 7 to William Hornby, a successor to the Pulteney title, for \$1.00, subject to the outstanding mortgages, *Ontario County Deeds*, Vol. 9, p. 447; *Monroe County Deeds*, Vol. 2, p. 2. As the old town records make clear, however, Michael Beach stayed on in possession of his farm on Lot 7 for several more years, until it was sold by Hornby to Birdsey Norton, who in turn conveyed the property to Abraham Castle, Husted, *Heros In Homespun*, pp. 6-7; Turner, *Pioneer History of Phelps and Gorham's Purchase*, pp. 512-513.

When at last he did move, Michael Beach chose not to stay in Parma, even though his eldest child, Shelton Beach⁶, had by now established his own homestead there. Instead, Michael Beach⁵ and the balance of his family moved southeast to resettle in what was then known as Boyle,

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Ontario County, New York; later subdivided into the townships of Pittsford, Perinton [a/k/a Perrington] and Penfield. As a result, he finds mention in the various local histories of all three communities, although it is believed he actually resided in what is now Perinton.

The move most likely took place in early or mid 1809. According to the records of the Pittsford Congregational Church, of which mention was made earlier, Michael Beach⁵ was an original member at the time the church was organized in 1809, D.A.R., *New York Cemetery, Church and Town Records*, Vol. 24, p. 168. This is consistent with the old county histories which state:

Daniel and Roswell Terrell, of Connecticut in 1810, settled a little east of the Northrup tract. Michael Beach was a previous settler.

McIntosh, *History of Monroe County, New York*, p. 222

Michael Beach, Daniel and Roswell Terrell, Aaron Seymour, Hiram Hayes and Valentine Roswell were early settlers in that locality.

Peck, *Landmarks of Monroe County, New York*, p. 363

Finally, he was certainly present by the time of the 1810 Federal Census of Boyle, Ontario County, New York, which shows the household of "Michael Beech" to have contained one male over 45 years old, three males between 16 and 26 years old, one male between 10 and 16 years old, one male under 10 years old, one female between 26 and 45 years old, one female between 10 and 16 years only, and three females under 10 years old.

Far more troublesome than the date of Michael Beach's settlement is its precise location. In a three volume typescript, printed in 1951, local historian Marjorie S. Merriman drew together information from public records, published histories and private papers on a number of Perrington's pioneers. In her notes on Michael Beach she observed:

Judging by the road district in which he was overseer, M.B. must have lived in Lot 57 or 58. No conveyances of land to him have been found.

Merriman, *Early Settlers of Perinton, New York 1790-1830*, Vol. 1 [A through L]

On the other hand, Samuel Castle's reminiscences state that "Beach removed to Pittsford," Turner, *Pioneer History of Phelps and Gorham's Purchase*, p. 513; a claim seemingly supported by his membership in the church there. It at least appears certain Michael Beach did not reside in that part of Boyle which later became Penfield, according to an analysis of the 1810 Census data done by Catherine Wilcox Thompson, *Penfield's Past*, p. 203.

Whatever the case, Michael Beach⁵ quickly found himself once more involved in the religious and civic life of his new community. In 1811 his name again appears on the Pittsford Congregational Church records as a "constituent member," Merriman, *Early Settlers of Perinton, N.Y. 1790-1830*, Vol. 1 [A through L]. Another source declares that:

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In 1811 Rev. Silas Hubbard was employed on trial for two Sabbaths, at five dollars per Sabbath. Among the names of those who signed the call for Mr. Hubbard are the following not before mentioned: Nathan Norton, Silas Packard, Jesse Perrin, Michael Beach, and Isaac Barnard.

McIntosh, *History of Monroe County, New York*, p. 237

The data compiled by Marjorie Merriman provide the following additional facts with regard to Michael Beach's activities. In 1814 he was made an overseer of highways and fence viewer in Perinton. That same year he was a delegate from the Pittsford church to a church conference. In 1816 he was retained as an overseer of highways for district 23 and fenceviewer in Perinton. That same year Michael Beach⁵ also registered his earmark for cattle with the Perinton town clerk. Finally, in 1817, he was made a poundmaster in Perinton. After that he apparently disappears from the records of Pittsford, Perinton or Penfield. Despite being more than 60 years of age, Michael Beach was still restless. It was time to move on once more: first to return to Parma and then, after a brief stay, to the new frontier of Michigan.

The Restless Veteran: 1820 to 1830

The 1820 Federal Census for New York contains no mention of Michael Beach⁵ by name. The schedule for Parma, Ontario County, however, show the household of his eldest son, Shelton Beach⁶, consisting of one male over 45 years old, one male between 26 and 45 years old, four males under 10 years old, and one female between 16 and 18 years old. That the elder adult male is Michael Beach - now living with his son - is supported by other evidence of his return to Parma at or about this time.

In addition to the *Northampton-Parma Records*, the Rochester Public Library also contains the so-called "1819 Book," properly entitled the *Parma-Greece Congregational Church Records*. This small leather bound volume has likewise been abstracted in a typescript compiled by Lula P. Smith and Myrtle R. Haynes of the Irondiquiot Chapter, D.A.R., under the title *Congregational Church Records of Parma and Greece, Monroe County, N.Y.*. Unfortunately, this more readily available typescript is not a verbatim transcript and contains several errors and omissions which, for present purposes, are significant. Hence, all references which follow are to the original volume, hereafter cited as the *Parma-Greece Church Records*.

At the time of this church's organization on December 2, 1819, Michael Beach's name does not appear among the list of original members. The next year, however, the following entries were made:

Parma, April 7th, 1820. At a church meeting & lecture preparatory to communion preached by Rev. Mr. [Solomon] Allen: Mr. Michael Beach presented a letter from the church in Pittsford. Mr. John Barn [?] gave a [unclear] and both stand proposed as candidates for admission into church fellowship on next sabbath.

Sunday, April 9th the above persons with Mrs. Rhoda Brockway who presented a letter from the Church in Lanesborough, Mass. ... were admitted members of this church.

Parma-Greece Church Records, pp. 22, 23

Two other shorter entries likewise evidence Michael Beach's admission; one at page 10 and the other on an unnumbered page found between pages 22 and 23. In the Smith and Haynes typescript, however, all of these references are abstracted as the record of admission of "Mrs. Michael Beach"; a flourish in the "r" of "Mr." in the original having been mistaken for an "s." This is unfortunate since the D.A.R. typescript is more widely available than the original volume and undoubtedly has and will continue to mislead all who rely upon it.

That Michael Beach⁵ returned to Parma to reside with his son Shelton⁶ is also confirmed by another reference preserved in one of the old county histories. In an account of the life of Gibbons Jewett, Parma's justice of the peace, reference is made to his skill in construing and passing judgment on the early settlers' contracts and agreements; many of which were less than skillfully drafted. As an example the following agreement is then recited:

Due Shelton Beach fifteen Shillings in Potatoes, which Erastus Robinson promises to pay in pine boards; said work is to be done in hand labor when called for, with the exception of two Shillings in cash to Michael Beach.

McIntosh, *History of Monroe County, New York*, p. 174

Unfortunately, the date of this contract is not given and the outcome of the controversy involving it is not stated. That this dispute arose during the period in question is evidenced, however, by the fact that Erastus Robinson settled in Parma in or shortly after 1820, Husted, *Parma, N.Y. - Hub of the Universe*, p. 32.

In 1825, however, Michael Beach, by now 69 years old, would once more removed himself from Parma to travel west to the Michigan territory. His younger sons, Michael Beach, Jr.⁶ and Reuben C. Beach⁶ had themselves recently settled there in Troy, Oakland County, and it was perhaps his wish to see them. Whatever the reason, the "1819 Book" contains the following entry which helps to date his journey:

Lords day May 15th 1825. Mr. Michael Beach being about to remove from this part of the country requests a certificate of his standing in this church. Voted to grant his request by giving him a letter certifying him to be a member of this church in good standing. Z. Stevens, Clerk.

Parma-Greece Church Records, p. 24

A Michigan record likewise helps to date Michael Beach's arrival there, albeit indirectly. On May 31, 1825 - just sixteen days after the above-quoted reference - his son, Michael Beach, Jr.⁶, used the appellation "Jr." for the first time in signing a list of voters in Oakland County, Carter, *Territorial Papers of the United States: Michigan Territory, 1820-1829*, Vol. XI, p. 885. Since the son had, on all previously known occasions, signed himself and was known simply as "Michael Beach," his adoption of the suffix "Jr." could only mean it was now necessary to distinguish himself from his recently arrived father.

According to the *Beach Family Magazine*, Vol. I, No. 4, p. 95, the elder Michael Beach⁵ not only moved to, but "... later purchased land in Michigan..." A search of Oakland County deeds after 1825, however, has failed to disclose any conveyances to him, although several were made

during this time to and by Michael Beach, Jr., who again is named as such. In fact, only one document is presently known which, beyond question, clearly pertains to the elder gentleman. On November 27, 1827, a petition was presented to the U.S. Congress by a number of Michigan citizens, calling for the construction of a canal from Detroit to Lake Michigan. Among the signers of that petition are listed both "Michael Beach" and "Michael Beach, Jr.", Carter, *Territorial Papers of the United States: Michigan Territory, 1820-1829*, Vol. XI, p. 1133. An examination of the actual signatures on the original document, which is preserved at the National Archives, leaves no doubt that the Michael Beach who signed it is the same man whose signature appears in the *Northampton-Parma Town Records* some twenty-seven years earlier.

Sometime after 1827, however, Michael Beach⁵ returned once more to the Genesee country of New York. Whether his journey to Michigan was simply a prolonged visit with his sons or whether he desired once more to see other family members left behind is unknown. All that is certain is that the 1830 Federal Census for Parma, now a part of the newly created Monroe County, New York, shows Michael Beach⁵ to be the sole member of his household, between 70 and 80 years old. Later that year, on December 13, 1830, he was admitted to membership in the First Presbyterian Church of Rochester, New York, on transfer from the church at Pontiac, Michigan, D.A.R., *New York Cemetery, Church and Town Records*, Vol. 114, p. 8.

The Unknown End

The First Presbyterian Church admission is, as far as it now known, the last contemporary reference to Michael Beach. At the time he would have been 74 years old. Sometime within the next ten years he would die, for the 1840 Federal Census of both New York and Michigan make no mention of him. Unfortunately, the date, place and manner of his death, and the site of his grave are still uncertain.

Beginning at page 160 the *Parma-Greece Church Records* contain a so-called "Index List of Members." This list includes a reference to "Beach, Michael" at page "10," followed by the word "dismissed." In what then appears to be a different ink and hand is written the single, terse word "Dead." The record book is devoid of any further information.

In the reminiscenses of Samuel Castle, quoted from earlier, it is said that "Beach removed to Pittsford, died several years since in Clarendon." Turner, *Pioneer History of Phelps and Gorham's Purchase*, p. 513. Since the Turner history was published in 1851, it may be assumed that Castle's account was given sometime in 1849 or 1850. Taking the word "since" to mean prior to the time of Castle's statement, this would suggest Michael Beach's death occurred in the late 1830's. The reference to "Clarendon" is, however, far less clear. While there is a Clarendon in Orleans County, New York, several miles west of Parma, a search of the available records of that place finds no mention of Michael Beach⁵ having either lived or died there.

So it is that Michael Beach⁵ - patriot, pioneer and patriarch - about whom so much else is known, fades away into history with hardly a trace; his date of death unknown and his final resting place a mystery. In its own way, however, this is as it should be, for his proper

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monument is not some slab of lifeless stone, but the rich and varied contributions which he made to his country, community and church. As historian Shirley Cox Husted has written:

Sleep in peace, Michael Beach, our first Revolutionary pioneer... you founded a township, a church, a school and you helped plant our first apple orchard. All these have disappeared. But your legacy endures. Wherever you are now, rest in peace.

Husted, *Heros In Homespun*, p. 6

Notes On The Marriages And Wives Of Michael Beach

Little has been said to this point concerning the marriages and wives of Michael Beach⁵ and for good reason: the number and names of his wives and the dates of his marriage to them seem hopelessly confused. For that reason the detailed discussion this topic requires has been reserved for separate treatment.

As noted above, Michael Beach⁵ is recorded as having first married on August 7, 1773, at the age of 17. His wife's name appears in the actual record as Unice Herter, *Goshen Vital Reocrds*, Vol. 1, p. 240, and is so abstracted in the Barbour Collection Index at the Connecticut State Library. The published histories and genealogies, however, consistently give the name as Eunice Hester, Hibbard, *History of the Town of Goshen, Connecticut*, pp. 424, 577; *Beach Family Magazine*, Vol. I, No. 4, p. 95. Aside from this uncertainty over the proper spelling of the name, however, there is also reason to seriously question the date.

Hibbard's history contains, at pages 573 to 592, what purports to be a "literal" copy of the marriages "taken from the records in the office of the town clerk." In this list the entry for the marriage of Michael Beach and Eunice Hester appears after a series of five others dated 1780 to 1783, and before two others dated 1783 and 1784. While there are admittedly other entries in the list which are grossly out of chronological order, the peculiar sequence noted above at least suggests that the year of Michael Beach's marriage should be 1783 - ten years later than actually stated, due to clerical error in the compilation or transcription of the original record. This analysis is supported by the fact that Michael Beach would then have been 27 years of age, rather than only 17. While marriages before the age of majority were not unheard of, neither were they common, especially for men, in the mid 1700's. Finally, the 1783 date would seem more consistent with the birth of the couple's first child, Shelton Beach⁶, on October 2, 1784, some fourteen months later. To suggest that the couple would or could remain childless for over eleven years, which a 1773 marriage date would require, stretches credulity beyond all reasonable limits.

Records of the Pittsford Congregational Church indicate that Michael Beach's next child, Eunice⁶, was born August 19, 1786. Assuming that this daughter was born to and named after Eunice Hester, her mother must have died in childbirth or shortly thereafter, although no record for her death has yet been found. This is based on the fact that Michael Beach's next child, the first Michael Beach, Jr.⁶, was born only ten months later on June 16, 1787; the daughter of Michael and "Elizabeth". This was undoubtedly Elizabeth or "Eliza" Castle, the daughter of Reuben Castle of Woodbury, Connecticut. No official record of their marriage has been found,

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no doubt due to "the loss of a book containing the marraiges for 34 years, and including the period between 1786 and 1820..." Hibbard, *History of the Town of Goshen, Connecticut*, p. 573. There are, however, a number of other references and circumstantial evidence that such a marriage did take place.

Francis Beach⁵ [son of Jacob⁴, John³], born at Goshen in 1755 and Michael Beach's first cousin, maintained a series of notes on the Beach family which he ultimately provided to Deacon Lewis M. Norton, the town's first historian, *Beach Family Magazine*, Vol. I, No. 4, p. 97. Norton's work, in turn, served as the basis for Rev. A. G. Hibbard's *History of the Town of Goshen, Connecticut*, which see at pp. 7-14. Thus, at page 424, Hibbard states that Michael Beach "m. Aug. 7, 1773, Eunice Hester, as recorded; Francis Beach says to 'Eliza Castle of Roxbury'." Subsequent authorities, which undoubtedly rely on Hibbard, also cite Francis Beach or his notes to the same effect, *See: e.g., Beach Family Magazine*, Vol. I, No. 4, p. 95.

Reference has also been made above to the series of deeds between Michael Beach⁵ and Reuben Castle, between March 31, 1786 to March 31, 1788; the last of which specifically refers to "my son-in-law Michael Beach." Note may also be taken of the fact Michael Beach's fifth child, born September 24, 1793, was named Reuben Castle Beach⁶, and that a number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren bore Castle as a middle name. It is therefore beyond question that Michael Beach's second wife was Eliza or Elizabeth Castle and that their marriage endured until at least 1793; the birthdate of Reuben Castle Beach⁶.

Sometime prior to October 9, 1803, however, Michael Beach⁵ apparently married a third time. On that date he conveyed his holdings in Parma, New York, to William Hornby by a deed also signed by his wife. In the text her name is given as Esther, although the signature itself is Easter. Both the maiden name and date of marriage to this spouse are unknown. Since Michael Beach⁵ had other children born to him in 1796 and 1798 he was evidently married at that time. The 1800 census likewise shows his household to have included a female between 26 and 45 years old. It is presently impossible to determine, however, whether the mother of these children and wife shown on the census was Eliza Castle and/or the otherwise unknown Esther/Easter.

The Pittsford Congregational Church records indicate that Michael Beach's next child was a daughter, Esther⁶, born on June 23, 1805. It would thus appear that she was named for her mother and that Michael Beach's third marriage endured at least this long. After 1805, however, matters are again confused. The same Pittsford Congregational Church records pertaining to Michael Beach⁵ are available in two transcribed sources. According to one, Michael Beach took yet a fourth wife, Anna, said to have been born March 31, 1749, i.e., seven years older than himself, D.A.R., *New York Cemetery, Church and Town Records*, Vol. 24, p. 168 *et seq.* The second source repeats this, but also claims such church records show a daughter likewise named Anna⁶, again born on March 31 in the year 1789, exactly forty years after the supposed wife, Merriman, *The Early Settlers of Perinton, N.Y. 1790-1830*, Vol. 1 [A through L]. Any possibility that such a daughter might have been born on the birthday and given the name of her mother is ruled out, however, by the fact that Michael Beach⁵ was clearly married to Eliza Castle in 1789. Clarification of this confusion must await inspection of the original church records. For the moment, however, it is significant the 1810 census shows the oldest female in Michael Beach's

household to be between 26 and 45 years old, i.e., born between 1765 and 1784. This seems to rule out the possibility of his being married, sometime after 1805, to a woman born as early as 1749.

By 1820 Michael Beach⁵ was once more a single man, probably widowed, and never again to remarry. The 1820 census, which suggests he was living with his son Shelton Beach⁶, shows no older females as members of the household. The *Parma-Greece Church Records* likewise make no mention of any wife [except insofar as the transcribed records mistakenly substitute "Mrs." for "Mr. Michael Beach"]. The three or four wives with whom he shared the joys and sorrows of life all presumably passed on before him; the dates of their deaths and the places of their final rest as unknown and uncertain as his own.

Notes On The Children Of Michael Beach

As is the case with his wives, the number, names and dates of birth of Michael Beach's children are not as fully known nor as well established as might be wished. The available Connecticut records provide the names and birthdates of two sons: Shelton⁶, born in 1784, and the first Michael, Jr.⁶, born in 1787. The Pittsford Congregational Church Records establish the names and birthdates of at least six more children: Eunice⁶, born in 1786; the second Michael, Jr.⁶, born in 1790 or 1791; Reuben Castle⁶, born in 1793; Silas⁶, born in 1796; Samuel⁶, born in 1798; and Esther⁶, born in 1805. According to one version of such church records another daughter, Anna⁶, was born in 1789. Finally, the *Beach Family Magazine*, Vol. I, No. 4, p. 95, gives a final child, Philo⁶, whose date of birth is unknown.

It should also be noted, however, that the Federal Censuses for 1790, 1800 and 1810 suggest the possibility of still other, yet unidentified children. The 1790 Federal Census for Litchfield County, Connecticut, lists one male over 16 years old, one male under 16 years old and three females. The elder male is Michael Beach⁵ while the younger male is undoubtedly his son Shelton⁶. If, as seems clear, the first Michael Beach, Jr.⁶ died soon after birth in 1787 then his absence from the census is explained. As for the females, one is Michael Beach's wife, another is his daughter, Eunice⁶, born in 1786, and the third could well be the daughter, Anna⁶, said by some to have been born in 1789.

The 1790 Federal Census for Columbia County, New York, however, is less clear. Assuming that it pertains to the same Michael Beach - a question explored more fully above - it shows a household containing one male over 16 years old, four males under 16 years old, and only one female. Assuming the older male to be Michael Beach⁵, the sole female to be his wife, and one of the younger males to be son Shelton⁶, this still leaves three young males not yet identified, while omitting any reference to daughters Eunice⁶ and Anna⁶. As suggested above, these younger males might be nephews or cousins of Michael Beach⁵ who accompanied him west during his migration to the Genesee region of New York, while the infant daughters were left behind with family or friends in Connecticut. It could also be that one of them is the first Michael, Jr.⁶, whose death might not have occurred until after the census was taken. Another possibility is that the census is simply wrong or has confused the sex of the children; the daughters Eunice⁶ and Anna⁶ being listed erroneously as sons.

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The 1800 Federal Census for Ontario County, New York, is less troublesome and can be squared with the information known or suggested by other sources. It shows the household of Michael Beach⁵ to consist of one male between 26 and 45 years old, i.e., Michael Beach⁵ himself; one male between 16 and 26 years old, i.e., Shelton⁶; four males under 10 years old, i.e., the second Michael, Jr.⁶, Reuben Castle⁶, Silas⁶ and Samuel⁶, all born between 1790 and 1798; one female between 26 and 45 years old, i.e., Michael Beach's wife; and two females between 10 and 16 years old, i.e., Eunice⁶ and Anna⁶.

By the time of the 1810 Federal Census for Ontario County, however, matters are once again confused. It shows the household of Michael Beach⁵ to consist of one male over 45 years old, i.e., Michael Beach⁵ himself. Also shown are three males between 16 and 26 years old, i.e., born between 1784 and 1794. This could well be Shelton⁶, the second Michael, Jr.⁶, and Reuben Castle⁶, except that other evidence suggests Shelton⁶ had, by this time, established himself outside the parental home. Also shown is only one male between 10 and 16 years old, i.e., born between 1794 and 1800. It is known, however, that two sons were born during this period: Silas⁶, in 1796, and Samuel⁶, in 1798. Since Samuel⁶ lived to manhood, married and had children, it must be assumed that Silas⁶, of whom nothing else is known, died sometime between 1800 and 1810. As for the sole male under 10 years old, this is presumably the youngest son, Philo⁶.

With regard to its enumeration of females, the 1810 census shows one between 26 and 45 years old, i.e., Michael Beach's wife. No females are shown between 16 and 26 years old; however, it is known that daughter Eunice⁶, born in 1786, had married in 1801 and daughter Anna⁶, born in 1789, may likewise have married or moved out of the household. An additional female is shown between 10 and 16 years old, i.e., born between 1794 and 1800, but is otherwise unknown and unaccounted for. Finally, three females are shown under 10 years old, i.e., born after 1800. One of these is Esther⁶, born in 1805; however, the other two remain a mystery. A possibility is that Michael Beach's wife at this time was herself a widow with daughters of her own, but this is only speculation.

In sum, the list of children of Michael Beach⁵ presented below and discussed elsewhere should not be regarded as all-inclusive or definitive. There may well be other sons or daughters who, in time and with further research, will take their rightful place as descendants of this remarkable patriot and pioneer.

ISSUE:

1. SHELTON, also sometimes called SHELDON, b. Oct 2, 1784, at Goshen, Connecticut.
2. EUNICE, b. Aug 19, 1786, most likely at Goshen, Connecticut; d. after 1855 in Oakland County, Michigan; m. Jan 28, 1801 or 1802, Alpheus Madden, of Parma, New York, who d. Sep 10, 1814, from illness during the War of 1812.
3. MICHAEL, b. Jun 16, 1787, at Salisbury, Connecticut; d. as an infant prior to 1790 or 1791 when a younger brother of the same name was born.
4. ANNA, b. Mar 31, 1789.

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5. MICHAEL, b. Jun 11, 1790 or 1791; d. Jun 25, 1855, at Highland, Michigan; m. Lucy Davis, daughter of Joshua and Rebecca Davis.
6. REUBEN CASTLE, b. Sep 24, 1793, but some sources erroneously say 1796; d. Dec 25, 1863, at Troy, Michigan, ae. 69; m. 1st., Polly Ann Griggs, who d. c. 1824; m. 2nd., Marietta Ann Davis, daughter of Joshua and Rebecca Davis.
7. SILAS, b. Jan 3, 1796; believed to have died early.
8. SAMUEL, b. Apr 3, 1798; m. 1st., Clarissa Tyler; m. 2nd., Polly Ann Rittenberg.
9. ESTHER, b. Jun 23, 1805.
10. PHILO, d. after 1855 when he witnessed the bounty land claim of his brother Michael; said to have died single and without issue.

PASSINGS

The following taken from the *News Transcript*, Farmingdale, New Jersey, for Nov 22, 2000, as posted to <http://newstranscript.gmnews.com/News/2000/1122/Obituaries.html>:

HAROLD J. BEACH, 76, of Freehold Township died Nov. 11 at Riverview Medical Center, Red Bank. Born in Jersey City, he had resided in the Fairview section of Middletown for 20 years before moving to Freehold Township 16 years ago. Mr. Beach was vice president of tax planning for the Bank of New York and had been associated with Bankers Trust Co. as vice president in charge of taxes. He retired as corporate tax manager for the Bank of New York, Manhattan, N.Y., in 1984. A graduate of St. Peter's College, Jersey City, he also attended the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, N.Y., from 1942-1944; and served as lieutenant in the Naval Reserve until 1946. Mr. Beach was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II. He was a communicant of St. Rose of Lima Roman Catholic Church and a member of American Legion Post 54, both of Freehold. He served as a trustee of the St. Peter's College alumni board; was a trustee for the Middletown Health Center; and was a past president of Red Bank Catholic High School Boosters, Red Bank. His professional associations included the Federal Tax Forum, the Tax Executive Institute, and the Tax Committee of the New York Clearing House. He was a past chairman of the Committee of Banking Institutions on Taxation, and the Tax Committee of the New York State Bankers Association. In addition, he served on the board of directors of the Bank Administration Institute and as chairman of the tax committee. He served as project leader for A Guide to Bank Taxation and Tax Return Preparation, a publication of the Bank Administration Institute. He was frequently a guest speaker at banking conferences sponsored by the Bank Administration Institute and the Bank Tax Institute. He received several honors for his work on bank taxation including the Bank Administration Institute's award for distinguished service to the banking industry in the field of taxation. After his retirement he published Recent Development in Bank Taxation. Mr. Beach was predeceased by his first wife, Eileen Riley Beach. Surviving are his wife, Barbara Mackey Beach; three sons and daughters-in-law, Gary and Catherine Beach of Sherborn, Mass., Kevin and Patrice Beach of Sayville, N.Y., and Gerard and Susan Beach of Plymouth, Mass.; a brother, Charles Beach of Toms River; a sister, Mary Tyrrell of Jersey City; and six grandchildren. The funeral liturgy was celebrated at St. Rose of Lima Church, followed by interment at St. Rose of Lima Cemetery, both Freehold Township. The Freeman Funeral Home, Freehold, was in charge of arrangements.

NOTE: We found this man on the 1930 Census for Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey, age 6, living with his father, August Beach, age 45, born in New York; mother, Mary C. Beach, age 43, born in New York; and siblings August J. Beach, age 23(?); Walter F. Beach, age 18; Clifford B. Beach, age 17; and Charles Beach, age 15. The 1920 Census also shows August Beach to have had another son, Bernard, age 1 5/12, who likely died young.

VARIOUS AND SUNDRY

OLIVIA BEACH - b.c. 1790; m. 1812 Joseph Worden, b. 1790; d. Aug 20, 1834, at Arcada, Wayne County, New York. The couple had twelve children, i.e., (i) Samuel Worden, b.c. 1816 at Elizabeth, New Jersey; (ii) John Worden, b.c. 1818 at Arcada, New York; (iii) Gabriel Worden, b. 1820 at Arcada, New York; (iv) Asa Ezekiel Worden, b. Dec 19, 1822; (v) Joseph Worden, b. Apr 15, 1824; (vi) Edwin Worden and his twin, (vii) Edward Worden, both b. Mar 17, 1827, at Arcada, New York; (viii) Phoebe Ann Worden, b.c. 1829; (ix) Charlotte C. Worden, b.c. 1831, at Arcada, New York; (x) Harriet Worden, b. Oct 19, 1833, at Lyons, New York; (xi) Sarah Worden, d. 1878; m. George McVernon; and (xii) Sally Worden. REF: Email dated Oct 24, 2003, from Tracy, JandBTMOM@aol.com. NOTE: Our correspondent initially believed this Olivia Beach to be Olive Beach⁶, Aaron⁵, Gershom⁴, Gershom³, Thomas², John¹, but that woman never married. Instead, we believe this Olivia Beach to be related (perhaps as sister?) to Gabriel Beach, b.c. 1765-1770 in New Jersey; d. 1828 at Junius, Seneca County, New York; about whom we wrote in Vol. IX, No. 1, pp. 1278-1279. As noted therein, Gabriel Beach had sons named John M./W. and Ezekiel, together with daughters named Elizabeth, Phebe and Catherine. Son John M./W., in turn, had a daughter named Olivia, b.c. 1819. Since the names Olivia, Gabriel, John, Phoebe/Phebe and Ezekiel likewise appear among the children of Olivia (Beach) Worden above, the existence of some relationship between these families is strongly suggested. So too, both Olivia (Beach) Worden and Gabriel Beach appear to have ties to New Jersey. Unfortunately, we are still unable to prove our suspicion that Gabriel Beach descends in some fashion from Ezekiel⁴, Epenetus³, Zophar², Thomas¹, but perhaps this new data on Olivia Beach's family will aid in eventually establishing such a link.

WILLIAM H. BEACH - Mayor of Holland, Michigan, from 1882 to 1885; born Apr 4, 1851, at Mt. Morris, New York. His family relocated to Port Huron, Michigan, in 1852 where they resided for many years. In 1878 he married Myrtle A. Sawyer of Cleveland, Ohio. The couple moved to Holland that same year where William entered the grain business, later partnering with J. Frank White to form the Little Wonder mill as well as working as a commission merchant selling farm produce on 8th and Fish Street. He served as secretary and treasurer of Bush and Lane Piano Company, president of the Beach Milling Company, president of Holland Furnace Company and the Holland City Bank, vice president of the Grand Rapids and Holland Railway Company, director of the Grand Haven State Bank, as well as alderman of the 1st ward, member of the board of education, and as a charter member of the Century Club. During his term as mayor Beach oversaw reorganization of the city's fire department; secured funds for major street improvements; encouraged the development of new business; and supervised installation of Holland's water system. After the expiration of his term he became Holland's school inspector. He died Mar 23, 1933 after a protracted illness. REF: Summarized from a biography found on the City of Holland web site at <http://www.ci.holland.mi.us/mayors/>. This is William Henry Beach⁸, Horace Abraham⁷, Horace V.⁶, Adna⁵, Adna⁴, John³, John², Thomas¹.

Look for the first issue for 2004 sometime in late January or early February. As noted in our Editor's column, please try to return your subscription renew forms by January 1st so we can tell how many of this issue we need to have copied.

Additionally, we are still working on a cumulative index for Volumes VI-X, which we hope to have ready some time this coming summer. The price will depend on the total number of pages, but will likely be \$10 to \$15. If you might be interested in a copy, please note this on your subscription renewal form.